

Urgency!

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: Why do you "urge" someone? What's behind the "urgency"?

Q: What is always the result of someone NOT heading the "urgency" of the message?

Q: What are some of the most "urgent" messages of our times?

Table Time....

READ: Ephesians 4:1-10 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, **urge you** to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." ⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)"

Q: According to verse 1, what is the "urgent plea" of St. Paul?

Q: According to verses 2-3, what does a "manner worthy of your calling look like? What are the characteristics?

Q: According to verses 4-6, what is the emphasis here?

Q: According to verse 7, "what" have we been given?

Q: What's important about verses 8-10? Like why is this pertinent to the previous verses?

READ: Ephesians 4:11-14 "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of

the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."

Q: What has God "given" to His people to reveal, show, equip them for this call?

Q: According to verse 12, what is the role of those mentioned in verse 11?

Q: What does this necessarily and practically mean for YOU?

Q: According to verse 13-14, what's the GOAL of all this? Discuss!

Q: In what ways have you noticed "the craftiness and deceitfulness" of the evil one?

READ: Ephesians 4:15 "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

Q: In what way are we to "speak the truth"?

Q: Can truth be used as a "club"? How might we soften, temper and approach the truth in a way that is healing and helpful vs destructive and damaging?

Big Group Debrief...

READ: Ephesians 4:17-23 "Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

Q: How have you seen verses 17-19?

Q: What's the solution for us who believe?