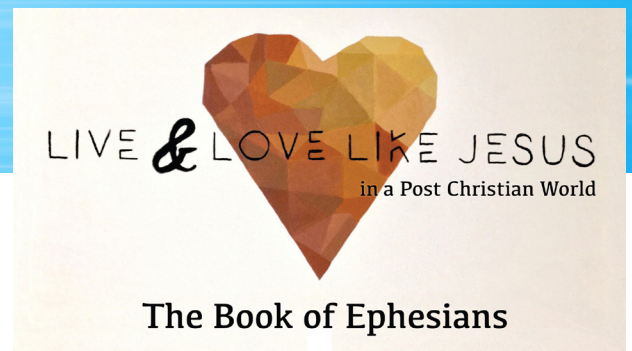


Discussion Questions

January 8, 2023

Ephesians 4:1-4 Walking Worthy of Our Calling



1. Read Ephesians 4:1-4

Paul begins by saying "Therefore." This is referring to chapters 1-3. Summarize in your own words what Paul has been saying the last 3 chapters.

2. In verse 1, Paul speaks of living worthy of the calling they are called to. He repeats the exact double usage of their calling in verse 4. Read the following passages, then discuss what is the calling to which we are called?

Ephesians 1:4-5

Ephesians 2:10

Romans 8:28-29

Discuss what ways, if any, does this differ from how you have previously understood a Christian's calling.

3. In Ephesians 4:2, Paul says the first thing we do to walk worthy of this calling is walk in Humility and Gentleness/Meekness. Jesus uses these two qualities to describe Himself when inviting people to come to Him. The prophet Isaiah describes Jesus as gently caring for bruised reeds and smoldering wicks in Isaiah 42:3. Discuss what it looks like for us to actually become more like Jesus in this area. How do we increasingly walk with humility and gentleness, caring for bruised and smoldering people around us in such a polarized world that is moving the opposite direction?

4. Next Paul says they must walk in Patience, which means long-suffering and bearing with others in love. The assumption here is that it will not be easy to walk this journey; but we need to be prepared to not just tolerate - but love - those who bring pain into our lives, who offend us and who we deeply disagree with. Without giving any names, share about how God may be challenging you with this right now.

5. James spoke about the common usage of the words clergy and laity/laymen and how clergy is traditionally used to describe the professionals doing the ministry and laity the untrained remainder. Yet we saw how completely unbiblical that dichotomy is. Discuss the dangers of viewing ministry in this context and what the Biblical view of ministry is.



Ephesians 4:1-3

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:4

... just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—

Clergy = klēros

"a lot, portion, or inheritance"

Colossians 1:12 (NLT)

*[The Father] has enabled you to share in the **inheritance** that belongs to his people, who live in the light.*

1 Peter 5:2-3 (NASB 2020)

*shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily... nor yet as domineering over **those assigned to your care**, but by proving to be examples to the flock.*

1 Peter 2:5 (NLT)

you are [God's] holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ,

Laity = Laikos

"of the common people"

Karl Barth 1957

The term 'laity' is one of the worst in the vocabulary of religion and ought to be banished from Christian conversation.

Romans 8:28-29 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son

Matthew 11:29 (NIV)

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for **I am gentle and humble** in heart,*

Walk Worthy of Your Calling:

- **Humility**

Philippians 2:3-8

*Be **humble**, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the **humble** position of a slave and was born as a human being.*

*When he appeared in human form, he **humbled** himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

- **Gentleness/Meekness**

Isaiah 42:3 (NIV)

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

Ephesians 4:2

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

- **Bear With One Another in Love**

Thomas Abbott

It involves bearing with one another's weaknesses, not ceasing to love one's neighbours or friends because of those faults in them which perhaps offend or displease us'

Psalms 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting