



Lesson 9: Walking In Unity

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Key Thought: God is glorified when believers are unified.

1. Before we dive into the text, let's learn a little about one another. Do you have any siblings? If yes, how close were you growing up?

A.

Most families experience times when unity is either tested, diminished, destroyed and/or strengthened. If you are comfortable doing so, share when one or more has occurred.

A.

2. Paul strongly urges believers to **walk** worthy of their calling (*Ephesians 4:1*). This calling refers to the time when we are born spiritually. When God opens our spiritually blind eyes and we trust Jesus as Lord and Savior and began to live the Christian life. If you can relate, when did your spiritual journey begin?

A.

What do you recall most about your earliest days of walking with the Lord? Would you describe your earliest days as a slow walk, a jog, or an all out sprint? Explain.

A.

Measuring our devotion

The walk of a believer involves interacting with other Christians. While challenging at times, it is one way we can measure the depth of our relationship to Christ and test the sincerity of our faith. In our text, Paul uses several words to describe what is considered "acceptable behavior" between believers.

3. First of all, Paul says we are to **walk with all lowliness** (*Ephesians 4:2*). We are not to be proud or conceited, especially considering how God found us and what He's done for us. How can having this mindset help us as we interact with other believers?

A.

4. Paul then tells us we are to walk in gentleness or meekness, as did Jesus Christ (*Ephesians 4:2, Matthew 11:29*). Charles Hodge defines meekness as "that unresisting, uncomplaining disposition of mind, which enables us to bear without irritation or resentment the faults or injuries of others". Many believers see this as one of the hardest commands to keep. Do you? If yes, what about it makes it most difficult for you?

A.

How can having this mindset help us as we interact with other believers?

A.

5. Paul then tells us we are to walk patiently (*being longsuffering*) with one another in love (*Ephesians 4:2*). This basically means we are called to suppress our anger and instead extend mercy to others. How different might your life be right now if not for God's patience with you?

A.

In what area of your walk do you feel He has been the most longsuffering with you?

A.

How can having this mindset help us as we interact with others believers?

A.

6. What is the outcome or goal of walking this way? (*Ephesians 4:3*)

A.

Practically speaking, how does this outcome or goal benefit you, the church, and God's kingdom? What can we do to promote unity within our local church?

A.

7. Paul closes this appeal for Christian unity by using the word "One" over and over again to describe how much we have in common (*Ephesians 4:4-6*). Pick a "One" he mentions and share how it unifies us.

A.