

I Love My Church Relationships

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Ephesians 4:1-6

I. Introduction

Paul begins a new section – now you are a new people with a new King and now a new lifestyle in this kingdom.

Paul moves from talking about what Christ has done for us (indicative) to what we must do (imperative) by the Spirit. Applying the gospel to our lives daily as a result.

II. Walking As Christians (v.1-2)

“...walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...”

The Apostle Paul introduces the word “walk” as a metaphor for living the Christian life. He uses this in 4:1,17; 5:1,8,15.

“Those people who really believe the gospel show it by becoming like the gospel.” JD Greear

“with” – means accompanied by – Live this calling accompanied by these virtues

Paul gives us 5 characteristics of walking worthy:

A. *Humility* – lowliness of mind, recognizing the worth and value of others over yourself. Philippians 2 – foreign concept until Jesus came!

B. *Gentleness – Prautes* - means having one’s emotions under control and is the opposite of self-assertion, rudeness, and harshness.

C. *Patience* – speaks of being tolerant of others weaknesses. It is bearing patiently with the faults and sins of others. It is a patient holding out under trial, a long-protracted restraint of the soul from yielding to passion, especially the passion of anger.

D. *Bearing with one another* – speaks of tolerance with each other. To bear with means to tolerate, to forbear. It pictures restraint under attack and includes an allowance for the faults and failures of others. The present tense calls for this to be our lifestyle.

“Someone saturated in the grace of the gospel develops an almost insane ability to forgive.” JD Greear

E. *In love* – the greatest of all virtues – Paul prayed (3:17) that they would be rooted and grounded in love. In combination with showing tolerance, the idea is to love those who don't deserve it or who irritate, disturb or embarrass us. This supernatural, Christlike behavior is only possible by the strengthening by the Holy Spirit.

III. Unity As Christians (v.3-6)

“...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...”

eager to - conveys the idea hastening to do something with the implication of associated energy or with intense effort and motivation. This verb has an element of haste, urgency, or even a sense of crisis to it.

“maintain” - means to keep an eye on, keep something in view, to attend carefully, or to watch over it. The Greek word speaks of keeping as the result of guarding something which is in one's possession

The Apostle Paul speaks of unity in the body of Christ. It describes a state of oneness or of being in harmony and accord

“in the bond of peace.” - Maintaining this unity is accomplished “in the bond of peace.” Peace is the bond or “glue” which ensures that this God-given unity will not fall apart. Peace has a bonding effect and is the means by which we will maintain and show forth the unity of the Spirit. When the peace is disturbed you can rest assured that the unity is disrupted.

“When you have tasted the grace of the gospel, no relationship, no matter how wrong or hurtful or annoying, looks the same to you.” JD Greear

Paul continues to show this unity through 7 different ways:

- A. One Body
- B. One Spirit
- C. One Hope
- D. One Lord
- E. One Faith
- F. One Baptism
- E. One God

IV. Conclusion

This today is radical kingdom living! This type of living should be lived out in our homes, workplace and especially the church.

Jesus did not die on the cross so that we can make slight alterations to our lifestyles. He called us to live for a completely different kingdom. A kingdom where we must live by the Spirit in order to accomplish His work!