

THE BODY EPHESIANS 4:1-13

BIG IDEA: As a part of the body of Christ, living a life worthy of the calling we've received looks like loving one another in humility and patience, and being built up in service together.

Who are some people that our society would say, have lived a life that's worthy? What kinds of things about their lives make people think that?

Read Eph 4:1-13

What is Paul's desire for the Ephesians (v1-6)?

Live a life worthy of the Lord, be humble and gentle, be patient, bear with one another, unity.

As a group of Christians, like the Ephesians, what might our Growth Group look like if we were to live out these things as well?

Might need to deal with the idea of unity - what it is and isn't. Unity doesn't mean finding the lowest common denominator. And we're not seeking unity - we're keeping the unity we already have in Jesus.

Also want to encourage people to be thinking 'how can I serve the group in these ways' as opposed to 'how can I be served by the group in this way'.

In verse 8 Paul quotes Ps 68:18. What events in Jesus life are verses 9 and 10 talking about? How do they relate to verse 8?

In the incarnation and ascension, Paul sees the fulfillment of this Psalm.

How do verses 8-10 relate to what Paul goes on to say?

It's the same Jesus who is the one who gifts the church, and gives different gifts or 'grace' (v7) to people.

What's the purpose of the graces that Jesus gives in the form of different people?

V12 to prepare God's people for works of service, building up the body

V13 reaching unity in faith and knowledge of Jesus, becoming mature

How do these purposes affect what we expect of leaders at church (be it staff, elders, growth group leaders etc.)?

Just trying to lead into people talking about what expectations they have of what leaders at church will do for them, and to think about if Jesus has that same expectation.

If this is the purpose for us as a church, as a smaller group that gathers as part of church, how will this play out in the way we relate this year as a growth group? What can we expect of one another (and know that others in the group are expecting of us!)? Does it challenge any of your current expectations?

Want the group to see that the goal of a larger gathering like church, and a smaller part of that being growth group, are the things outlined in verses 12-13. Hopefully this will be a helpful time to get people's expectations out on the table, and to gently deal with those that aren't actually the purpose of Growth group.

Pray together and for one another, for our year ahead.