
SERMON NOTES May 1, 2022

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/notes

**Ephesians 4:1-6
Growing Up Together
Pastor Mike**

I. _____ to the _____ of God's grace

We strive not to _____ blessings, but _____ to them

II. We are all _____ helping each other _____

a. We are all spiritually _____

b. We grow toward maturity in _____

III. Helping each other grow defined by _____

a. Three _____ of grace in God's family

1) Understanding grace will produce _____

2) Remembering grace will produce _____

3) Humility will express itself as _____

b. Translating these attitudes into _____

IV. Uniting around our common _____

V. Finding _____ in God's grace

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on the theological truth about our identity in Christ, and then the last three chapters focus on the practical application of that truth in all aspects of our daily life. Ephesians 4:1 states this transition by calling us to, “*walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*”
 - a. What is the relationship of right theology about God and his grace to the Bible’s call to right living and morality?
 - b. When Paul urges us to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,” the word translated as worthy literally means, “having the same weight as.” So he is calling us to live a life of significance that reflects the weight of God’s blessings. What would it look like for you personally to do this?

2. Paul doesn’t teach that we should try to live a life worthy of earning the blessings of God, but that we should try to live a life worthy of the blessings that God has already freely given us, as an appropriate response to the blessings.
 - a. What should be a greater motivation; to live worthy of the blessings we are trying to earn or to live worthy of the blessings we have been given in a response to that grace? Explain your answer.
 - b. What does it say about us if we understand that we are recipients of God’s grace and yet we have little motivation to live a sold-out God-honoring life in response to this grace?

3. Paul teaches that while we should all strive to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, the fact is we all fall far short of that goal. We are all spiritually immature children, seeking to grow in maturity, and this growth happens through deep involvement in church community.
 - a. Why is it important to recognize and acknowledge our spiritual immaturity, that we are “*children*” seeking to “*grow up in all things*” (Eph 4:13-14)? How does this impact our spiritual growth and health? How does it impact our church community?
 - b. Ephesians 4:1-16 seems to teach that it is impossible to grow to maturity on our own. Maturity only comes through our connection in a healthy church community. Is this true? Why or why not? Why is church involvement so vital to our spiritual growth?

4. As we help each other grow in maturity, God calls us to do so “*with all humility, and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.*”
 - a. In his message Pastor Mike said that a true understanding of God’s grace will always produce humility. What did he mean? Is this humility true in your life?
 - b. This verse teaches that an attitude of humility and gentleness will express itself in actions of patience, “*bearing with one another in love.*” Do you believe that an attitude of humility will always lead to patience with other people? Why or why not? Would it be accurate to say that our impatience with others is always rooted—at least in part in pride?
 - c. Who do you have the hardest time being patient with? What about your heart makes it hard to be patient with that person?

5. Ultimately our unity as a church won’t be achieved by our downplaying our differences and weaknesses, but it’s achieved by properly elevating our common faith, our common Lord.
 - a. When we have divisions within the church and/or conflicts with other believers, it is always because we have elevated other things above our common faith and common Lord? Explain your answer.
 - b. Are there other believers with whom you are currently divided? What is greater than the bond of Christ that is keeping you divided? What is God calling you to do this week?