

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for March 13, 2022

Sermon Notes

Walking Worthy of Our Calling: Unity

Ephesians 4:1-6

In our sermons, we don't usually say too much about Greek grammar. It's there, and it is important, but it is not always necessary or helpful to say a lot about it. But with that disclaimer, we need to know that grammar and grammatical distinctives in God's Word matter. So, let's meet the imperative and indicative mood.

The Bible uses indicative statements when discussing what God has done, is doing, or will do. Imperative statements are used when saying what we should do. In the New Testament, the indicative always precedes the imperative. For this we should be thankful because it is another evidence of God's grace to us. This means that what God commands us to do (the imperative) is based upon what he has already done, is doing, or will do (the indicatives). One commentator said, "Every *imperative* of Scripture (what we are to do for God) rests on the *indicative* (who we are in our relationship with God), and the order is *not* reversible."

This is the certainly the case in the Ephesians. The content and the structure of the book of Ephesians demonstrates that what God has and is doing for us in Christ (the indicatives in the first three chapters) form the foundation and framework of how we should live for Christ (the imperatives in the final three chapters of Ephesians). In other words, "What Christians *do* is based on *who* we are in Christ. We obey because God has loved us and united us to himself by his Son; we are not united to God, nor do we make him love us, because we have obeyed him. Our obedience is a response to his love, not a purchase of it." (Chappell)

This is what Paul is getting at in Ephesians 4:1: "*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called*". We could say this is a one-sentence summary of the entire book. What is our proper response to the truth that "*God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus*" (Ephesians 2:4-7)? How should we now live in light of this? We will see answers to this question in Ephesians 3-6.

There is a definite call to this unity. (v 1)

There are distinctive characteristics required for this unity. (v 2)

There is diligence required to maintain this unity. (v 3)

There is a divine pattern or model for this unity. (vv 4-6)

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

What does unity have to do with the "manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called?" Why is it something worth pursuing, especially in light of who Christ is and who we are in him?

How is pursuing unity always an act of faith? How does this passage help us understand that? How does an unwillingness to pursue unity expose a lack of faith?

What is the most difficult aspect of remaining diligent in maintaining unity? How does an attitude of diligence result in maturity in character and in the knowledge of God?

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.*

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