

TRUE IDENTITY



IN HIM, WE ARE GIFTED
March 15, 2020

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:1-16 NIV

WEEKLY SERMON REFLECTION

- ◆ How did the sermon this week from the passage above speak to you personally?
- ◆ Why is that important to you?
- ◆ What is the biggest challenge of that truth?

HEAD

- ◆ In verse 1, Paul identifies himself as a “prisoner of the Lord.” How do you think this identity Paul has of himself, impacts the way he lives his faith? How does your identity impact your faith in action?
- ◆ According to vv. 2-6, how are we to “walk worthy of our calling”? What is the goal of living this lifestyle?



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- ◆ Of the qualities listed in verse 2, which did you demonstrate the best this week? The worst? Why do you think Paul adds the word “completely” before these characteristics?
- ◆ Why do you think Paul is addressing unity in our relationships with others? What do you think this suggests about the role of Christian community for an individual’s spiritual growth? What do you think would be on a list of signs of spiritual growth in a disciple’s life?
- ◆ What does it mean to ‘speak truth in love’? How is this different than just speaking truth?
- ◆ Why do you think Paul mentions that we should bear with one another *in love*, speak the truth *in love*, and build up the church *in love*? Why do you think he repeated this phrase?

HEART

- ◆ What does it mean to bear with one another? Why is it coupled with “be patient”?
- ◆ Why is it essential that we’re moving toward maturity in our faith? What happens if we aren’t?
- ◆ How is your daily life, impacting your “works of service”? Do you struggle to see the seemingly routine tasks as kingdom service? Why or why not?
- ◆ When has someone spoken the truth in love to you about something you needed to change or address? How did you take it? What was the result?
- ◆ Where do you see your need for the gifts of others in your life? Where do you see your gifts given for the benefit of others?

ACTION

- ◆ On a scale of 1 (apart) to 10 (together), how unified is our church? How are you fulfilling your call to “keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (vs. 3)? How can we, as a Life Group, be unifiers?
- ◆ What do you need to learn in having a balance of speaking the truth and loving well?
- ◆ Over the last six months in what areas have you seen growth toward maturity in your faith, and what steps did you take to get there?
- ◆ Share ways that the faith of others in your group has encouraged you in your life.

