

SBBS - One
September 12, 2010
Eph. 4:1-16

Read Eph. 4:1-16

Walking worthy of the gospel is more than just abstaining from sin. How can we understand this based on Hebrews 6:1-2?

Repentance is something we learn when we first come to Christ and is found at the immature level. Every Christian should already practice abstaining from sin and repentance.

So, what Paul is saying is to live life in a manner more than just abstaining from sin, but is living humbly: not thinking more of yourself than you should, just because you have talents does not make you ultimate. We all have a lot to offer, but it's not all about us and our talents.

We should also be gentle and patient with people and ourselves, because we all make mistakes and sin has ravaged ALL OUR LIVES. Therefore we need to bear with each other in love.

How are ways we can express our love for each other? How are some ways you are bearing others up?

This maturing in Christ as an individual and as a whole group, therefore we need be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit.

What does that mean? How can we let the Spirit be the point man for our church, drawing us together under one purpose? Has He already done this? What are some ways you and your class and our church are walking under one purpose and thought? Is it to Love God, Love Others, Reach the World?

Paul writes the word "one" in verses 4-6, which is just one sentence, 7 times.

Although we are many, we just a part of one body? Therefore what is your role in that body, what importance do we see from the text, does your role play?

We see in 1 Cor. 12: 4-12 that the body has been assembled the way God wanted for the good of the body and for Christ. We see the same thing here in Eph. 4.

What are some ways that your role in the body of Christ is found in the one purpose and thought of Bethany? Is it for the common good of the body? Is Christ being glorified in your role?

We see in Eph. 4:15-16 that Christ is the purpose of our being together, He is what holds us together! How can we make Christ the focal point of all our ministry?

The message of hope found in Christ is the reason we are here. The reason we are who we are is not for our own regards, but for Christ and for EVERYONE ELSE.

When we get out of joint and begin to think we run things or that our purpose takes precedent, we begin to cease to work properly, because we begin to displace someone else. Look at the last part of 16.

Looking at the obverse or the opposite side of this, when each part is NOT working properly, the body does NOT grow so that it does NOT build itself up in love. And this growth is not necessarily numerical growth, by maturity

In whatever God is calling us to do or be, if we don't answer, we hinder the maturity of the church

When we are obedient to our calling, whatever that calling may be, when we work properly, earnestly seeking the unity in the Spirit, with humility, in gentleness, bearing with one another in love, we press on to maturity, growing up as the body, building in love.