



The Book of Ephesians

Lesson 4: Chapter 4 – Articulation – Sharing the message of the Gospel

1. The call of God

Ephesians 4:1

We should live our lives as Christians worthy of the calling.

How do you walk worthy of the calling?

Ephesians 4:2, 3

In order to walk worthy of our calling we need the following characteristics:

Definition of LOWLINESS:

- _____
- Total absence of arrogance, conceit, and haughtiness

Definition of GENTLENESS:

- _____
- Keeping your emotions under control
- Someone who rules their soul well

Definition of LONG SUFFERING:

- _____
- The ability to endure persecution (from world and believers)
- Having the power to take revenge but deciding not to

Definition of BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER: _____

Verse 3 is a mandate. Paul then gives ways to practically keep unity and peace.

2. Unity we can see in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:4-6

- One body
- _____
- One hope
- One Lord
- _____
- One baptism
- One Father of all

Ephesians 4:15, 16

Christ is the head of the body.

When the body is connected to the head it functions properly.

God desires for every part of the body to be effectively working for the Kingdom of God. He wants each believer to be doing their part.

We cannot operate in our gift effectively without being connected to the body and the body connected to the head – Christ.

Paul is reminding us that Christ is the head of the church. The purpose of the church is to please God and for believers to take their directions from the head of the church.

3. One body with different gifts

Ephesians 4:7

The word “grace” in this verse means “capacity and ability due to the grace of God”.

In other words, God has given to each Christian _____

Ephesians 4:8

When Jesus ascended into heaven, the first thing He did was to give the five-fold ministry gifts to the church.

This shows us how important and valuable these gifts are to the church.

Ephesians 4:11

These five gifts are the leadership of the church.

Nobody can “make” himself one of these gifts. God calls and gives the anointing.

- _____

Definition of APOSTLE: _____

Using the example of a hand, the apostle is the thumb because he can touch all other ministry gifts easily.

Brings order and sets up proper government. He has the anointing and authority to govern in the church.

Destroys bad foundation and lays a good one.

An apostle is one who goes first. He knows how to plow rough ground.

He has the ability to go where the Gospel has never been preached and raise up the Body of Christ.

Some churches have an apostolic anointing.

- _____

Using the example of a hand, the prophet is the pointer finger. He brings the Word of the Lord to the church.

The anointing on a prophet can change a church, community, or even an empire like Daniel or Ezekiel.

A true prophet prophesies and it comes to pass.

His prophetic words deal with the future (not just gift of prophecy).

- _____

Using the example of a hand, the evangelist is the middle finger. He reaches out the furthest into the world.

Anointed to communicate the Gospel and bring salvation.

Can give the simplest sermon and see sinners come to God.

Philip is an example of an evangelist.

It is clear from Ephesians 4 that the evangelist is not a gift only for sinners, but he plays a role in the equipping of the saints.

- _____

Using the example of a hand, the pastor is the ring finger. He is committed to the people.

A pastor is a shepherd who feeds the flock (the local church) the Word of God.

Jeremiah 3:15

Many people call themselves pastors who are not operating in that particular gift.

- _____

Using the example of a hand, the teacher is the pinky finger. He brings accuracy and stability.

He has the anointing to teach the Word of God with revelation.

Opens the mysteries of the truth of God from the Word.

Causes the complex to be simple.

4. The job description of the five-fold ministry gifts

Ephesians 4:12-14

These three verses explain why God gave these particular gifts to the church.

Ephesians 4:12

Why God gave the gifts.

Definition of EQUIPPING:

- _____

- Training

- _____
- Making fully qualified for service

Although the five-fold ministry gifts do the work of the ministry, their primary task is to equip the believers in the local church to do the work of the ministry.

We read earlier that every believer has a measure of grace for the gift God gave them. The job of the five-fold ministry is to identify that grace in believers and prepare and train them to operate in that gift.

When believers receive impartation from leadership and operate in their gift within the local church, it will edify the body of Christ.

Definition of EDIFY: _____

Everyone will be built up and everyone will do the work of the ministry. The church is not a spectator sport. We are not an audience, but an active participant in what God is doing.

Ephesians 4:13

How long the gifts will be around for?

Answer: Until we all come to the unity of the faith and everything listed in verses 13 and 14 occurs.

All the gifts are still here because we have not arrived there yet.

What does it mean when it says until we all come to the “knowledge of the son of God”?

Answer: The gifts are responsible to bring knowledge of who Jesus is and who we are in Him.

Definition of A PERFECT MAN: That we might become mature as the body of Christ.

What does it mean until we all come to “the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”?

The five-fold ministry is anointed to bring the body of Christ into the full anointing in their gifts and callings.

Ephesians 4:14-16

The five-fold ministry gifts _____

There are seven blessings to receiving from the five-fold ministry gifts and allowing them to bring you into perfection.

- No longer be children – Maturity

- Not tossed to and fro and having a doubtful mind – _____
- Not carried about with every wind of doctrine – Rooted and grounded in the truth of God's Word
- Able to discern truth from error – _____
- Able to speak the truth in love
- Constant growth in spiritual things
- Harmony with other in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:16

There is another important truth in this verse.

Paul is speaking about the Body of Christ and how everyone has a gift and works together.

Definition of SUPPLIES: The word gives the idea that when every member of the Body of Christ is properly connected and working together correctly, a supernatural, lavish supply of divine energy is activated to fully accomplish the purpose of God.

This is a great picture of the church. When every member is contributing it releases something supernatural.

5. What did Jesus do when he died and rose from the dead?

Ephesians 4:8-10

Definition of HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE: _____

The demons that had been taking people captive found out what it was like to be captive themselves.

Verses nine and ten explain that Jesus came from heaven and when he died, He went to hell.

This lines up with a verse in Colossians.

Colossians 2:15

6. We should not live like the rest of the world lives.

Ephesians 4:17-19

A Christian should not live like a non-Christian.

Ephesians 4:20-24

If you are saved, you should not live the old way, but start living holy and righteous.

In verse twenty-two the phrase “put off” gives a picture of someone who is laying something down and pushing it far away from himself, beyond reach.

The word describes removing something and putting it at a great distance, so that it is not easy to pick it back up again.

The phrase “put on”, in verse 24, means to put on something new.

In verse twenty-three it tells us to be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Definition of RENEWED: _____

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throw off the old evil nature ... clothe yourself with this new nature.

Your life should be producing the fruit of the spirit.

Paul, by the Holy Spirit, deals practically with how to live holy.

Ephesians 4:25

Ephesians 4:26, 27

Definition of WRATH: This is a compound word in the Greek. The first part of the word means “very close”. The second part of the word means “someone whose mood is so upset that he becomes completely worked up over some issue”.

When the two words are joined together, it presents the picture of a person who brings anger to his side and embraces it.

Someone who does this creates an opportunity for the devil to work in his mind and emotions.

The devil looks for the best time to attack. He needs an open door. We have to live a life where we do not give him a place or create an opportunity for him to put us in a trap.

When we forgive and refuse to hold onto an offence, we close the door on the enemy. He has no opportunity. We give him no place.

Definition of PLACE: This word refers to a specific location. It carries the idea of territory, region, zone, or geographical location.

The devil must find an entry point where he can begin to work in our lives.

Do not give an opportunity to the devil.

Ephesians 4:28

Ephesians 4:29

Definition of CORRUPT: Decayed and rotten

Your words should _____ and accomplish good.

Our words can minister life, blessings, and anointing.

Ephesians 4:30

When you were born again, you were sealed. This is like when a king seals a document with his stamp. God stamped you saying, “You belong to Me, and what I put in you was My doing.”

In order to be grieved, you must have a _____

Definition of GRIEVE: Pain or grief that can only be experienced between two people who deeply love each other. It is most often used when talking about marriage.

The Holy Spirit is grieved when we do what is listed in this chapter (lying, holding a grudge, speaking corrupt words).

It is connected with the verse before it about corrupt communication. In the Greek, this is speaking specifically about gossip.

Ephesians 4:31

If you took all those things out of the church, it would be near perfect.

What Paul is saying is that even though you are sealed with the Holy Spirit, those things are going to try to penetrate that seal. If you’re holding fast to the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace, you are not going to tolerate bitterness, wrath (getting even), anger (selfishness), clamor (making noise and being a distraction), slander (false accusations and gossip), and malice (an attitude that you want someone to hurt because they hurt you).

Ephesians 4:32

A church with unforgiveness amongst its members will be crippled.

The antidote to bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice is kindness, being tender-hearted, and forgiveness.

“Just as” means to the same degree.

To the same degree you have been forgiven, you forgive.

You can always tell when someone does not have a sense of forgiveness in their life. When you are walking in the revelation every day that you are so much better than you deserve and have been forgiven of much, that flows out of you.

Yet this is a major struggle, as people forget what they were saved from and the great forgiveness that was poured out of them. When we understand this, it is impossible to treat people badly.

Christ forgave us, _____

To be a Christian is not a set of rules. It is to be Christ like.