



Week of February 2, 2020: Ephesians 4:1-16

### Discussion Questions Set #1

"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." (Ephesians 4:1)

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)

"Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you." (Romans 12:3)

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves." (Romans 15:1)

In sermon, we discussed the idea that the Apostle Paul uses the metaphor of "walking around" to describe the life of a follower of Jesus. We also understood that a God-directed, Christ-defined, other-oriented life is by nature active.

1. Why might this metaphor be helpful for the follower of Jesus to consider?
2. Why is it important for us to understand that the life of a follower of Jesus ought to be active?
3. Ephesians 4:1 carries with it the sense that we are to "live up to" our calling as chosen ones of God, ones "holy and blameless in his sight", "adopt[ed] to sonship through Jesus Christ", and "marked in [Jesus] with [the Holy Spirit]". In what ways might we live up to this calling and what might this require?
4. In sermon, I suggested that "love-motivated obedience ought to be the response to love-generated grace". Discuss this statement in regards to Paul's "walking around" metaphor. How might this statement help shape our walk?
5. How might the following pairs of concepts contribute to maintaining unity?
  - a. Humility-gentleness
  - b. Patience-a willingness to bear with others
6. Thinking specifically of the concept of bearing with others, what reservations/concerns do you have about embodying this effectively?

### Discussion Questions Set #3

"... avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned ... watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites." (Titus 3:9-11 and Romans 16:17-18)

1. What significance is there that we are to maintain unity, rather than create unity? Why is it significant that the unity of the church is "of the Spirit"?
2. In sermon, we learned that divisiveness doesn't describe a difficult person, but more pointedly describes a person engaged in the creation of artificial doctrinal obstacles and the setting of people against one another, accomplished through gossip, exaggeration or complaints. Why are these things so disruptive of the church? Do we take our unity seriously enough?
3. In sermon, we learned that unity is not uniformity. Unity is actually maintained by diversity and variety for as Ephesians 4:16 puts it, the church "grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work". How have you seen diversity/variety lead to greater unity? Have you ever seen a lack of diversity/variety lead to disunity?
4. Scripture indicates that God gave gifts to people and gifted people to the church all to "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 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". Discuss this idea of individual giftedness and giftedness from a church perspective. How can different gifts and different gifted leaders lead us to maintain unity?
5. Discuss the following statement: just as we are positionally saved through Christ's finished work, yet are encouraged to "continue to work out [our] salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12), we are also positionally unified and mature in Christ, though we must continue to work towards unity and maturity. What does this suggest that some of our "work" as followers of Jesus ought to entail?