

Life of The Church Part 1
Ephesians 4:1-6
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Ephesians 4:1 The Foundation of the Life of the Church is the Gospel and Specifically the sovereignty and mercy of God.

Vs 1 “therefore” Paul is calling us back to something he said before. In fact, Paul is pointing back to the entire first three chapters of Ephesians. The first three chapters are all about God's grace and power manifest in His salvation which He gives to us.

Chapter four will lay down foundational truths for living the life of the church. These truths rest on the sovereignty and mercy of God. A firm grasp of the Gospel is the essential foundation for the life of the Church.

Ground your walk in church in the Gospel and walk according to you calling!

Vs 1 “prisoner” In what sense is Paul a prisoner of Jesus? He uses the term here and in Chapter three, verse one. In both cases he is exhorting the Ephesians to do something. In Chapter three, Paul's exhortation is “I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory (Eph 3:13).”

Ephesians was written while Paul was a prisoner in Rome awaiting a judgment from Caesar – this was part of his “tribulations”. Paul's “crimes” all center on his preaching of the Gospel. Paul is physically a prisoner of the World System, but he is a prisoner in the Lord – a prisoner for Jesus.

Some people have understood “the prisoner of the Lord” as Paul pointing out that he is a slave of Jesus. This is certainly true (Rom 1:1 & Tit 1:1) and Paul have a sort double meaning in mind when he says this. But the context highlights Paul's physical imprisonment for the Lord's Gospel.

He says with this verse that Paul is picking up his chains rattling them in our face and saying “do you see these that I wear for the Lord? By these chains I testify in truth and sincerity... so what is Paul's message. “

Vs 1 “beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,”

Paul is calling the Ephesian Christians to walk worthy of the calling in which they are called. If you are saved of God then you are called of God to walk worthy of the God who saved you.

Ephesians 4:2-3 Building the Life of The Church on The Gospel Foundation

Paul gives five ways that Christians should walk according to their calling. If the Gospel is the foundation for the life of the Church, then most of the rest of Ephesians are blue prints for the structure.

Vs 2 Lowliness This is humility – living a life that is not about you. Live the life of the church by living a life that is not about you.

Vs 2 Meekness This is gentleness – living a life that is considerate and self-controlled. Live the life of the church by living a life that self-controlled for the good of others.

Vs 2 Long-suffering This is patience – living a life waits on God. Live the life of the church by being patient with each other; driven by love not the passions.

VS 2 Forbearing in love This is enduring – living a life of cheerfully enduring the shortcomings of others because of love greater than our sins. Live the life of the church by putting up with each other in love.

Vs 3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. These first four uphold this major goal, live lives peacefully united by the Spirit of God.

By humility, gentleness, patience, and endurance, guard the peaceful unity of the Spirit in your church!

Ephesians 4:4-6 The Ties That Bind Us

As Paul is giving a blue print for unity he wants to remind us what we have in common. In 1:13–14 and 2:11–22 Paul speaks of this unity and now for a third time he wants to show us all that we have in common.

Notice the progression and ordering. This may have been a creed that the early church recited during worship. It seems to be ordered according to numbers with a Christian significance. There are seven “ones” of unity – seven often represents completeness in the Bible.

Three of the “ones” of unity (the Spirit, the Lord, and Father) are the persons of the Trinity.

And the Father and God has three characteristics, again reflecting the Trinity. Paul writes “One God and Father” is such a way that he clearly means they are one and the same.

1. One body the Church is a body and we should be as caring and connected as various parts of one body.
2. One Spirit all Christians partake in the Holy Spirit. When we are separated by geography or by a disagreement we should remember that we both have the same person, the Spirit, living with us.
3. One hope all Christians share the same sure hope: Jesus return for His saints.
4. One Lord all Christians share the same Lord, we are all going to give an account to the same person: Jesus.
5. One faith all Christians trust that same Lord. We follow Jesus with the same trust.
6. One baptism all Christians should mark their new birth by baptism – a shared symbol of dying to sin and living to God.
7. One God and Father who is:
 - 7a. Overall – God is above all Christians
 - 7b. Through all – God works through all Christians
 - 7c. In all Christians – God is in all Christians. Paul says “in you all” because the World does not have God in the way that the Church does.