

Contra Mundum

Just One

Ephesians 4:1-6

April 12, 2015

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **-Ephesians 4:4-6**

I. PAUL—PRISONER OF CHRIST JESUS

- Paul is defined, and therefore confined, by his relationship with Jesus (vs. 1; 1 Cor. 9:15-18; 15:9-11).

II. FIVE KEYS TO A LIFE WORTHY OF THE CALL

1. Humility (Prov. 6:17; Luke 14:11; James 4:6-10)
2. Gentleness (Matt. 5:5; 2 Cor. 10:1; Gal. 5:23; Phil. 4:5)
3. Patience (Matt. 18:21-35; Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Peter 3:9)
4. Love (1 Cor. 13; Col. 3:12-14)
5. Unity through Peace (Eph. 4:13; Phil. 4:2-3)

III. TRIUNE ONENESS

- There is one body of Christ—the church (Eph. 1:22; 5:29-30).
- There is one Spirit of God and Christ—the Holy Spirit.
- There is one hope—salvation (Eph. 2:12; 1 Cor. 15:19).
- There is one Lord—Jesus (John 20:28).
- There is one faith—in God through Christ (Acts 4:12).
- There is one baptism—into Christ (1 Peter 3:21-22).
- There is one God and Father—who is sovereign and omnipresent (Deut. 6:4; Psalm 139).

KNOW: We are called to a simple formula for peace and unity, bearing with one another because we share a common faith under the Lordship of a unified God.

DO: Live a life worthy of your calling.

Suggested Reading:

Why We Love the Church: In Praise of Institutions and Organized Religion, by Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Ephesians 4:1-6

1. Paul urges the church to live a life worthy of the calling they've received. Why doesn't he command them as an apostle to live in such a way? Can we command Christian living?
2. Imagine the church living out faithfully the five aspects of worthy living that Paul describes. What would be different about this type of church compared to the church we now know?
3. What is "unity of the Spirit?" What does it look like in a church?
4. Paul shares a clear Trinitarian formula in verses 4-6. Read those verses again. Is the Trinity an essential doctrine of the faith?
5. Verses 4-6 may very well have been a creedal statement recited by new believers in Paul's day. What would have been the value of having such a statement memorized? What would it teach new/young believers?
6. Paul says we are essentially "called to a call" (vs. 4). Who called us, and what are we called to?