

Differences can easily create conflict and dissension. But God has intended some differences to enrich the church. In the midst of such differences God calls the church to live together in unity. God formed the church out of two very different groups (Ephesians 2:15), to live in peace with Him and in unity with one another.

The letter of Paul to the Ephesians declares the glory of the Church and helps the reader to understand the unity in which believers should live. The foundational doctrine is taught in chapters 1–3. The specific application follows in chapters 4–6.

The opening of chapter 4 is a key pivotal point. In it there is the command to walk in unity (4:1–3), the basis for unity (4:4–6), the divine enablement for unity (4:7–13), and the ultimate goal of walking in unity (4:14–16). Unity is both something that exists (4:3) and that toward which we strive (4:13). There is a oneness in unity (4:4–6) yet a necessary diversity (4:11). The unity to which God calls believers will only be achieved, when your heart attitude matches the glory of your salvation.

I. *Understand the concept in “worthily” of matching*

To live a life “worthy” of the calling, pictures the believers’ lifestyle measured against their “calling”, as something would be weighed in a balance scale against a standard weight. A person is not called by God because of their life, but once called, the life should measure up to the calling.

II. *Understand the standard, the calling by which the believer has been called*

Ephesians 1–3 reveals the glory of the believers’ calling, the greatness of their salvation. A few highlights include the following truths.

1. The whole Godhead is involved in the calling of people to Himself. The Father chose (1:3–6), the Son redeemed (1:7–12), and the Spirit “seals” (1:13–14) those whom are called.
2. God gives the gift of eternal life to those He has called (2:1–10) out of spiritual death.
3. God gathers those He has called into a holy dwelling for Himself (2:21–22).
4. God has established a special relationship to those whom He called, giving access to Him (3:12), power (3:16), and unimaginable love (3:19–20).

This is the “standard weight” to which the believer’s life should “measure up.”

III. *Understand the contribution which begins with a right attitude*

Chapters 4–6 describe the lifestyle that “measures up” to the calling: living with one another in unity (4:1–16), differently than unbelievers (4:17 – 5:2), holy and as children of light (5:3–14), wisely (5:15–6:9), and strong in the Lord (6:10–20). It begins with a right attitude.

1. *Humility*

- It is the opposite of pride (Proverbs 29:23).
- It fosters unity whereas pride damages unity.
- It has an ultimate example in Jesus (Matthew 11:29).

2. *Gentleness*

- It is related to humility because pride often makes gentleness difficult (cf. Matthew 11:29; Colossians 3:12).
- Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy of the gentle Messiah (Matthew 12:20).
- The gentle person has their emotions and strength under control, which allows them to correct others in a way that fosters unity (Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:25).

3. *Patience*

- Patience, as a character quality of God, logically belongs to the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23).
- The patient person endures without retaliation and with an even temperament.
- Patience is needed for unity, because some move towards the goal more slowly than others.

4. *Bearing with one another in love*

- This requires patience, but advances to the active “carrying” of others along.
- It assists the weak to become stronger and the sinful to repent and move forward.
- It fosters unity and maturity as well as being an evidence of unity.

5. *Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*

- The diligent take their task seriously and move quickly to get it done.
- The unity of the Spirit already exists because all believers are joined together in one Body by the Spirit.
- God has established peace between Himself and believers by the death of Jesus on the cross. This peace allows us to draw close to God and thus closer to each other.
- This attitude appreciates God-ordained differences and strives to make peace (cf. Matthew 5:9).

We do not foster unity by removing differences, but by handling those differences rightly and with the right attitude.

Living in unity is a necessary part of your lifestyle, one way by which the believer “measures up” to the glory of the calling.

There is no “balance scale” for becoming a child of God. Any and all bad must be punished, which God has already done for the believer in Jesus Christ. Those who come to God through Jesus have been “called” by God. Those who are called, should then live in a manner worthy of that calling.