



April 10, 2016
Celebration | 9:00 am
Pastor David Mitchell

What it takes to Walk Worthy of Our Calling Ephesians 4:7-16

When we have biblical leaders. Ephesians 4:7-11

- Trust in Christ as our Senior Pastor – He alone is our victorious leader. Ephesians 4:7-10
- Establish godly people to serve in our church. Ephesians 4:11-12
 - We need specific designated leaders:
“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers” (v. 11)
 - We need all “saints” to be equipped to serve others
“for the equipping of the saints for the work of service...” (v. 12)

Equip =

When we strive for biblical growth. Ephesians 4:12-13

“...to the building up of the body of Christ...”

- To grow in unity with one another in our faith.
“...until we all attain to the unity of the faith...”
- To grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ.
“...and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

Faith =

Knowledge =

Mature man =

When we experience the following results: Ephesians 4:14-16

- We maintain convictions that are not compromised by false doctrine, trickery of men or deceitful scheming.
“...we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming...”
- We communicate what we believe in a loving manner.
“...but speaking the truth in love...”
- Everyone commits to work together to build up one another in love.
“... we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

Digging Deeper:

Today's passage develops the core and heart of why Christ sacrificed Himself for our salvation. He has called every believer in Jesus to live life as described in Ephesians 4:1-16. Sadly, too many see being a Christian as merely a one-hour worship experience. Rather, the Christian life is lived out every day in every moment. And, if you want a description of a successful church, it is found in this passage. There is a temptation to give in to entertainment rather than building up the body. Also, we are constantly challenged on what we believe because of what Paul calls, "every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming..."

LifeGroup Discussion:

The healthy church has biblical leaders and servants. Every "saint" is to be equipped to do God's work, not just the job of the pastor. This word "equipped" as used in the Greek, paints a picture of service in the church. It is used in three ways:

1. Repairing a torn fishing net
2. Replacing a joint that is out of place; and
3. Restoring a broken bone

The Lord has repaired, restored and replaced you for His ministry. In what ways has the Lord repaired, restored and replaced you? Consider your marriage or relationships, your health, your financial and emotional wellbeing. Then, give thanks again for His help.

What areas do you still need to be repaired, restored or replaced back into a relationship or ministry? Are you seeking the help of another? Are you praying for restoration? Or are you being stubborn and refusing to really get help? Will you humble yourself and find today what the Lord died to provide for you?

Ephesians 4:13 describes a primary goal: "the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ"

"A mature man." Maturity is a Greek term *teleios*, from which we partially get the English word telescope. It means reaching the end, finishing, completing or perfection. We are to reach the end by finishing this life just like Jesus. Just after Jesus prayed for unity in John 17, the story in John 18 is of His betrayal and arrest. His is a life under crisis that reflects His real maturity. Read through that passage and reflect how Jesus responded to Judas, the guard who lost an ear, and Peter. Cross reference with Luke 22:60-61. How did Jesus respond to Peter? As you read, look for the qualities of humility, gentleness, patience and love from Ephesians 4:2 in Jesus' life. That is real maturity that we should attain. How are you doing in those areas when under pressure?

Ephesians 4:14-16 on the front of the outline describe three results from maturity. Which of those three areas do you feel most confident in? Which would you like to grow to greater maturity in? Pray for God to empower you for those results because those are what God counts as a successful Christian and church.

Next Steps:

1. **Join the conversation at the Alpha Course and explore some of life's big questions about life, faith, the Bible and Jesus over a relaxed time of dinner, learning and group discussion.** The Alpha course meets Wednesdays through May 25 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Lobby. For more info, please visit calvarylife.org/alpha
2. **Attend the new Wednesday night series, Couple Talk, to build healthy communication in your relationships.** Couple Talk meets Wednesdays through April 27 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. You will learn - and use - practical tools to manage disagreements, handle strong emotions, and repair your relationship when it's been ruptured. As a result, you'll have better communication, feel closer to each other, and be able to resolve conflict faster! Find out more at calvarylife.org/marriage
3. **Connect with a mentor at the Mentor Meet-up to grow in your faith and better follow Jesus through a discipleship relationship.** The Mentor Meetup on Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 pm in the Lobby is an intentional time to help connect those looking to be mentors, and those looking to have a mentor over a casual evening of dessert. Learn more at calvarylife.org/mentor