

OUTLINE

Christian, Commit Yourself to a Local Church

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ June 19, 2022

Ephesians 4:1-6 ESV

Unity in the Body of Christ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



Introduction

a) Canadian Culture's Influence on the Church

- the last two years have been hard on the _____ and that is certainly no secret
- as I talk to more and more pastors the stories are all the same
- the stories are, "people got mad at the church and left, we have new people coming and many of our pre-covid _____ have not returned to in-person worship"
- churches are closing across the country in record numbers because of dwindling - _____
- in fact, the National Trust of Canada has predicted that 1/3 of Canadian churches will _____ in the next 10 years
- we can confidently say that the Canadian _____ has never been smaller, struggled more or been so shattered
- not only do we have many struggling churches but the _____ in Canada has changed drastically, even in the last ten years, it has become less tolerant to - _____ Christianity
- but in spite of all the challenges that are before the Canadian _____ we are called to be faithful to the Lord and His _____

- it has become increasingly _____ for us as followers of the Lord Jesus to know and _____ what the Lord Jesus demands of us as Christians
- it is important for followers of Jesus to be _____ to a local church and be faithful _____ and supporters
- our Canadian culture has become very _____ committed to important institutions like marriage and family, work and _____
- anybody who is trying to _____ people see that it is hard enough just get a resume for someone who wants to work let alone find an employee that will - _____ their heart out for their employer
- attitudes of laziness and _____ of commitment have not only affected the work force, these _____ things have impacted the church and not in a way that honours the Lord
- like many other issues in our lives, we need to take _____ the world and put _____ the Lord Jesus Christ
- do not let the world negatively influence your _____ to a local church

b) Overview of the Book of Ephesians

- Paul writes extensively in his letters about church _____
- an example of this is _____ in the books of 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians
- but another _____ that speaks clearly and directly about the Christian's commitment to the church is the book of Ephesians
- Ephesians shows that we _____ to be in a local church to _____ out the _____ given in Ephesians 4
- the book of Ephesians was written by _____ who writes that "he is an apostle by the will of God"
- it was the plan and _____ of God to save Paul and to call him to service to Jesus Christ in _____ of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- this letter was written to the _____ that was at Ephesus
- _____ other books were written to the church at Ephesus
- 1) Paul wrote the book of 1 Timothy to Timothy while he was _____ the church at Ephesus

2) the book of Revelation is an apocalyptic book that was written to _____ churches and one of those churches was the church at Ephesus

- Paul likely started this _____ as he preached the gospel in Ephesus in Acts 19
- Paul stayed in Ephesus for three months and boldly proclaimed the _____ of God (Acts 19:8)

- Paul's _____ did create a ruckus in the city of Ephesus
- because of the preaching of Jesus there was a _____ in Ephesus because people were _____ that individuals would be worshipping Jesus and not Diana of the Ephesians

-in Acts 20:1 Paul leaves Ephesus only later to _____ one more time to encourage the Ephesian Elders (Acts 20:17-38)

- the church at Ephesus was made up of both _____ and Gentiles and we know this because of Ephesians 2:11-22, where Paul _____ that Jews and Gentiles are made one in Jesus Christ

- Paul wrote this book to _____ the Ephesians of the wonderful grace that they have experienced in Jesus Christ

- Paul wrote this book to _____ the dangerous disunity between Jews and Gentiles in this congregation

- Paul wrote this book so that they would _____ in holiness

- the structure of the book of Ephesians is very _____

- chapters 1-3 focus upon the _____ and salvation found in Jesus Christ with some _____ for the Ephesians

- chapters 4-6 focus upon Christian living in _____ of the grace of Jesus Christ

Brief Outline:

1) (4:1-3) Unity in the Lord

2) (4:4-6) 7 Reasons for Unity

1) (4:1-3) Unity in the Lord

a) the word "therefore"

(4:1) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, _____ you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

- the word " _____ " is very important in Ephesians 4:1

- thus we must ask what the “therefore” is _____ for!
- Paul is _____ the Ephesians of the wonderful grace of God that he has already talked about in the first three _____

b) Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- in Ephesians 1:3-14 we see the _____ of our Triune God on full display
- we see the grace of God the Father, _____ and Holy Spirit in this passage
- in 1:3-5 God the Father, has _____ His people so that they might enjoy and experience His grace
- in 1:6-11 Jesus, God the Son, has brought about redemption and _____ of sins
- in 1:13-14 the Holy Spirit _____ the believer so that we can obtain the inheritance of eternal life

c) But God Because of Grace

- in Ephesians 2:1-10 Paul _____ about the wonderful grace of God
- in 2:1-3 we see our _____ condition; that we are dead in sin and under the _____ of God because of our sin
- in 2:4 we read “But God”
- these two words change the _____ of humanity; we are dead in sin but God in His grace saves sinners who are made _____ with God through Jesus Christ as we receive these _____ blessings through faith in Christ
- _____ of the grace of God given to them, because they have been given life or regenerated by Jesus Christ then they are to _____ in a way that is _____ of the Lord

d) Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Lord – Be Obedient

- we also need to note that in Ephesians 1-3 Paul only gives one command but in Ephesians 4-6 Paul gives almost _____ commands
- so Ephesians 4-6 focuses upon the _____ life that is to be lived out in light of the work of Christ in the _____ of sinners
- Paul addresses the Ephesians as a _____ for the Lord; which describes Paul as being a prisoner for Jesus Christ
- Paul is in prison for preaching the gospel and it is thought that Paul is writing this letter from prison in _____

- Paul “urges” them to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
- the word “_____” has the meaning of exhortation or appealing
- Paul, because of the grace of God, is appealing to this congregation to live a - _____ life

- Paul has similar exhortations in his _____ letters
- in Romans, after Paul explains _____ depravity, the good news of Jesus, the life in the Holy Spirit and the role of Israel, he then goes onto _____ these Christians to be obedient

Romans 12:1 I _____ to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your - _____ worship.

i) You have been called

- Paul makes reference in Ephesians 4:1 to the “calling to which you have been - _____”
- the calling of the Christian is an amazing _____
- let us look at a few aspects of the _____ of being called by God in the book of Ephesians

ii) You have been blessed

- 1:3 the Christian is _____ in Christ with every spiritual blessings
- 1:4 the Christian is chosen as holy and _____ before the Lord
- 1:5 the Christian has been predestined to be _____ into the family of God
- 1:7 the Christian has _____ the riches of the grace of God through Jesus Christ
- 2:4-5 the Christian experiences the rich love of God, the great _____ of God so that they can belong to God through Jesus Christ

i) You have been saved from wrath

- all humans apart from the grace of God are children of _____
- this means that we deserve the wrath of God for our _____
- but because of Christ we _____ from death and judgment to peace with God and _____ life in Christ

e) Therefore Live in a Way that Honours the Lord

- because of these wonderful blessings and God's _____ to us through Christ, we ought to live in a way that is _____ to the Lord
- if Jesus Christ has saved us then we must live in such a way that _____ the Lord
- if we do _____ live in a way that honours the Lord and brings glory to the Lord then we should truly _____ if we have experienced this great grace of Christ
- Paul gives us 5 aspects of how we are to _____ with regards to the Lord
- we are given clear commands on _____ a life worthy of the Lord

f) 5 Aspects on Living a Life Worthy of the Lord

(4:2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

1) humility

- this is the _____ of not being overly impressed with yourself
- a humble person is not walking around "tooting their own horn" at what they have done or how _____ they are
- we see this same attitude with the Lord Jesus because He _____ Himself and went to the Cross to die for sinners

2) gentleness

- gentleness is very _____ to humility
- it is the avoidance of _____ -importance
- this is the attitude of not thinking that "you are all that"
- it is being courteous and _____ towards others

3) patience

- this is a kind forbearance _____ people
 - this is the _____ that God shows us and that leads us to repentance
- Romans 2:4** Or do you presume on the riches of his _____ and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

4) bearing with one another in love

- this has the idea of _____ up with people
- this is very _____ to patience

- but this tolerance is to be done in _____

(4:3) eager to maintain the _____ of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

5) eager to maintain _____ and peace

- I talked to a pastor this week that has been _____ out by covid

- he has had a hard two _____

- he said that people who _____ with his covid response started to question even his salvation

- you might think that such a pastor denied the resurrection of Jesus or the virgin birth

- this pastor is one of the most _____, biblically focused pastors in all of Southern Ontario

- but he was dealing with people who were not eager to maintain unity and _____

- we, as believers, can create disunity and friction in church when we walk in pride

- we can create divisions in church when we _____ about patience and get short fused

- we can create schisms in church when we forget about the _____ of Christ given to us and _____ to show that love to others

- Paul _____ this church, that had many divisions, to be _____ and to have peace with one another

- the Ephesian church had many troubles with _____ as we see in chapter 2

- the Jews and the Gentiles were not getting along and this created serious - _____ in the church

Ephesians 2:11-18 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands--¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought _____ by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far

off and _____ to those who were near.¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

- sometimes, we as believers walk in _____, arrogance, selfishness and greed and we forget that the command to walk in _____ within the church is just as important as the other commands in the _____

2) (4:4-6) 7 Reasons for Unity

a) the Word "One" and the Trinity

- here Paul gives us 7 _____ for unity in Jesus Christ
- do you notice that the word " _____ " is used 7 times in Ephesians 4:4-6?
- it is thought that Paul is explaining a "baptism confession" in the _____ church
- this means that if you were going to _____ the early church you would need to _____ that you believed in these 7 truths of the Christian faith
- it is also important to notice that this confession of _____ found in Ephesians 4:4-6 is Trinitarian
- the _____, Son and the Holy Spirit are all highlighted

b) 7 Reasons For Unity

(4:4) There is _____ body and _____ Spirit-- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call--

1) One body

- there is only one _____ of Christ
- there is only _____ people of God
- there are not multiple ways to God or to belong to the _____ of God
- there is only one people of God and to belong to God you _____ belong to Jesus Christ
- when you are saved then you experience the grace of God through Jesus Christ and then belong to God and His _____
- therefore because of the _____ of God we are one and we _____ to live in unity as a unified body of believers in Jesus Christ
- this is imperative because the _____ is that Christians are truly _____ in Christ already

2) One Holy Spirit

- the Holy Spirit is the _____ person of the Holy Trinity

- the Holy Spirit is God as we see in Acts 5:3-4 when Peter _____ that the Holy Spirit is _____
- the Holy Spirit was sent from the Father and the Son to teach people about Jesus through the _____ of God
- the Holy Spirit's main role is to _____ Jesus Christ
- if you _____ the Holy Spirit as God, you reject the Christian faith!

3) One Hope

- there is a wonderful _____ stored up for the Christian in heaven
- this is because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ after _____ death upon the cross
- because of Jesus and His resurrection we have the blessed hope of the _____ of Christ
- Jesus will come back again and take those who are _____ for His coming to be with Him forever

(4:5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

4) One Lord

- there is only one _____ Jesus Christ
- only can come to God through Jesus Christ and experience _____ life

5) One Faith

- there are not _____ saviours there is only _____ Saviour Jesus Christ
- we experience salvation through faith in Jesus Christ _____
- here we have justification by _____ being highlighted in an early church confession

6) One Baptism

- when Jesus saves us, as an _____ of obedience, we are to be baptized so that we can outwardly show in baptism what the Lord Jesus has _____ for us
- we go under the water to show that we were _____ in sin then we are raised up to show that Christ Jesus has given us _____ life

(4:6) one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7) One God

- there is only _____ God because "two gods are one too many"
- Paul _____ this truth to Timothy in 1 Timothy

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator _____ God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Application

1) The Blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- not only do we see the _____ of the knowing the Lord in this passage Ephesians 4:1-6, we see the blessing of knowing the Lord in the _____ of the book of Ephesians

- the calling of the Lord is a huge _____ in this section Ephesians 4:1-6

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, a _____ for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

Ephesians 4:4 There is one _____ and one Spirit-- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call--

- _____ the Lord that He calls us not because of anything we ever did or ever could do, but we are called by God simply by _____

- hear what the Lord says to Israel about the _____ of belonging to the Lord by grace

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his _____ on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

- if we are _____ in ourselves and what we have done we will never truly trust in the grace of Christ

- many people when they are asked if they are a _____ person, claim that they are a good person

- that is because they are trusting in _____ goodness to bring them to God

- but when you read Ephesians you will see that we are not _____ people, we are a dead in sin, _____ to sin and a people who are deserving of the - _____ of God

- but God in His grace calls _____ to know Jesus Christ and His complete - _____ of sins

- God in His grace chooses people who are _____ and they are adopted into the _____ of God
- God in His grace predestines a people so that they can have this blessed - _____ of eternal life
- if you know Jesus Christ these truths are your _____
- _____ trusting in yourself and do not stew over your sin, _____ Christ and His grace alone
- if you are _____ Jesus Christ you need to know that there is one Holy Spirit, one hope, one Lord Jesus Christ, one faith in Jesus Christ, one _____ in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and one _____ the Father
- there are not multiple _____ to God to know God
- you can _____ experience God and know God through _____ Christ
- you can only escape the judgment of God through _____ Christ
- _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ alone because there is only one Lord
- no longer trust yourself and what you have done, _____ and forsake your sin and trust _____ Christ

2) Commit to Your Local Church

- this passage and the rest of the book of Ephesians _____ you to commit yourself to a _____ church
 - if you _____ the book of Ephesians you cannot even understand this book unless you embrace the Biblical truth that you must be _____ to a local church
 - because we cannot _____ with one another in love or maintain the - _____ of the Spirit without being committed to a local church
 - just look at what follows this passage concerning the _____ of the Holy Spirit giving _____ to the church
- Ephesians 4:11-12** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to _____ the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
- the Holy Spirit _____ leaders to the church and they are to equip the saints for the work of _____

- if you are not _____, humble and willing to learn from the leadership that the Holy Spirit has given the local church then you are not _____ Christ
- some people think that the Pastor is the only person _____ to the ministry, that is absolutely _____
- if you are a Christian you are to be equipped and go _____ the good news of Jesus Christ with _____
- the shepherds and teachers _____ up the body, but if you are not committed to a local church you will not be _____ up
- if you have been _____ by God, then you are called to live a life _____ of the Lord
- if you have been _____ by God, then you are chosen to live a life that - _____ the Lord
- in the context of this passage this means that we are to _____ in humility, patience, love and compassion with one _____
- if you are _____ committed to local church, how can you show humility towards one _____?
- if you are not _____ and you are neglecting the _____ church how do you _____ love to one another?
- in this passage we are called to walk in _____ with one another
- how on earth can you _____ in unity with the body of Christ if you are not - _____ to the body of Christ?
- let us live in unity, let us live in _____ with one another being devoted to one another as the _____ of Christ and thus live a life _____ of the Lord and His calling in which He has _____ us!

Sunday – June 19

Christian, Commit Yourself to a Local Church – Ephesians 4:1-6

Father's Day

The Following Sunday -- June 26

Guest Speaker --Gord Robinson

“In a Pit?” – Psalm 40