



Date: March 3, 2019

Scripture: **Ephesians 4:1-6**

Please turn in your Bibles to Ephesians 4:1-6 and read the passage quietly to yourself. Take your time with it.

Please share with the group.

- What jumps out at you from your initial reading?
- What questions do you have?
- What does this text teach you about God?
- What does it teach us about ourselves?
- What is the main point or call of the passage?
- From Ephesians 4:1-6, what should main point look like in our lives?
- This section begins with the word “*Therefore*.” “*Therefore*” bases what follows on what comes before. On the basis of what (what came before?), should we walk in a worthy manner?
- What specific verses from Ephesians chapters 1-3 does the “therefore” refer too?
- What would the World say walking in a worthy manner looks like?
- What does this text say it looks like? How are those two at war in you?
- This text gives many practical tools, aides, and examples of what it looks like to walk in harmony with one another in the church. What is the basis for our unity (hint: vv 4-6)?
- Can you think of any examples in scripture where someone perfectly or at least partially fulfilled this calling? What are they? ⁱ



- After having come up with some examples on your own, please read out loud the texts in this endnote.ⁱⁱ

Application questions:ⁱⁱⁱ

- Do I rejoice when others are praised and recognized and my accomplishments go unnoticed?
- Am I quick to admit to others when I am wrong?
- Am I quick to recognize and agree with God in confession when I have sinned?
- Do I confess my sin by name?
- Do I repent and confess my sins to others in my family?

Guided Prayer

- Consider how you might pray together Mathew 5:3-12. For example, have each person pray one verse... like this, “Heavenly Father, You promise to _____ (from the **second** half of the verse). Please help us to _____ (**first** half of the verse). In my life, my family, in the church, oh Lord help me to _____ (**first** half of the verse). In agreement with Jesus, Amen.”

Reminder: You can always catch up on any missed sermons at <https://mefchurch.org/sermons.html>

1. www.mefchurch.org
2. “Resources” Tab
3. Sermons



Bonus:

The Greek word for “Worthy” in Ephesians 4:1 is *axiōs* (ἀξιῶς), from which we get our English word axis or axiom. The Gk. *axios* means literally to balance the scales. Our doctrine is to be balanced by our way of life.

Richards, L. O. (1991; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996). *The Bible readers companion* (electronic ed.) (800). Wheaton: Victor Books.

What does it look like to live a balanced life? What weight or measure are our decisions being measured against?

Ephesians 4:3 - Maintain- Guard - Keep - τηρεω

“Keep” is *tēreō* (τηρεω), “to keep by guarding, to guard by exercising watchful care.” It speaks of guarding something which is in one’s possession.

Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest’s word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* ([Eph 4:1](#)). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Why is it that the Holy Spirit chose to use an aggressive word “Guard” that seems to imply that we have to be willing to ‘fight’ for peace? Who is at war with us?

How does this relate to the imagery of our sermon series and the metaphor in Ephesians 6:10-20?

What is the “One Faith” of vs 5? A warm feeling in my chest, a shiver on my spine, something else? ^{iv}

ⁱ Philippians 2: 1-30 provides the ultimate example at the beginning, and another couple excellent examples at the end.

ⁱⁱ Matthew 5:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; Revelation 12:10-11

ⁱⁱⁱ Galaxie Software, [10,000 Sermon Illustrations](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2002).

^{iv} In connection with baptism, the “one faith” is likely to have in view the baptismal confession of Jesus as Lord, so that, as the majority of commentators hold, its primary reference would be to the content of faith, the unifying belief in the one Lord. Faith also has the meaning of that which is believed later in the passage in 4:13 (cf. also [Col 1:23](#); [2:7](#)).

Lincoln, A. T. (2002). Vol. 42: Word Biblical Commentary : Ephesians. Word Biblical Commentary (240). Dallas: Word, Incorporated.