

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, August 16, 2026

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-6.

2. 19th-century Anglican bishop J.C. Ryle once wrote, “Never let us be guilty of sacrificing any portion of truth on the altar of peace.” Discuss this quote. What are some real-world examples where we must take heed of a statement such as this one?

3. In verse 1, the apostle Paul writes, “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.” What is the “therefore” there for, and why is it so important that we read Ephesians 4 and following in light of what Paul has written in the first three chapters?

4. Upon urging the believers to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,” Paul immediately applies this “walking worthily” in the context of the church. Discuss why belonging to a local church is so vital for Christian growth and maturity.

5. What characteristics/qualities does Paul list that promote Christian unity? Take some time to reflect upon each of these. Which of these qualities do you find most difficult to “walk in”? What is the only way for us to grow in these characteristics?

6. Take some time to reflect upon the graciousness of God in our salvation that is laid out for us in Ephesians chapters 1-3. How ought a better understanding of the graciousness of our God in the Gospel grow us in humility?

7. Paul lays out the foundation for Christian unity in verses 4-6. How do the truths that are listed in these verses motivate you toward unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

8. Jesus says in John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." How can our unity as believers be an effective evangelism tool in this world?

9. Is there anything else from the message that stuck out to you that hasn't been discussed yet? How can you practically apply this message to your own lives?

10. Pray!

Reading of the Law

Philippians 2:3, "3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we come before you this morning confessing our sin. You command us in your Word to count others as more significant than ourselves. However, we admit that we are often prone to do just the opposite of that which you command us to do. We confess that we often only look out for our own interests, our own benefits, and our own needs instead of looking out for the interests, benefits, and needs of others. We admit that we are prone toward selfish ambition, conceit, and pride instead of acting in love, selflessness, and humility. Father, we confess these sins to you now, and we ask that you would please look upon Christ and forgive us. Please cause us by your Spirit to be those who are ever increasing in love and care for one another for the glory of your great name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalms 32:3-5, "For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away

through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

5 I acknowledged my sin to you,

and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"

and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 49

124. Q. What is the third petition?

A. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

That is: Grant that we and all men may deny our own will, and without any murmuring obey your will, for it alone is good. 1

Grant also that everyone may carry out the duties of his office and calling 2 as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven. 3

- 1. Mt 7:21; 16:24-26; Lk 22:42; Rom 12:1, 2; Tit 2:11, 12.
- 2. 1 Cor 7:17-24; Eph 6:5-9.
- 3. Ps 103:20, 21.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 133

1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is

when brothers dwell in unity! [a]

2 It is like the precious oil on the head,

running down on the beard,

on the beard of Aaron,

running down on the collar of his robes!

3 It is like the dew of Hermon,

which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,

life forevermore.

Sermon Text

Ephesians 4:1-6

Unity in the Body of Christ

1 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.