



Sermon Notes

Term – Summer Term

Series – Ephesians part 2

Gathering & Date – 7th July 2019

Title – Live a life worthy of the calling

Preacher –Neil Shepherd

Reading – Ephesians 4:1-6 & 17-5:2

Main message of this talk in one sentence: Living a life worthy of the calling; live in the light, live in love and live imitating God

Main points – (see the PowerPoint as well)

Recap the series so far and remember that we are building Ephesians 4 on the beginning of the letter, Ephesians 1-3, and this is all about all that God has done for us

Paul, the writer of Ephesians, also writes the same encouragement to other churches:

1. Philippians 1:27
2. Colossians 1:10
3. 1 Thessalonians 2:12

Worthy means worth as much as, weighing as much as, equivalent to – the image is of a counter-balance which has been stacked up with all that God has done for us and we are enabled to respond in kind

The character of this response is:

1. Humble and gentle
2. Patient
3. Bearing with one another
4. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace

[peace means good health, safety, welfare, a lack of striving – this is something that needs to be worked at and worked through as we engage in the new life available in the cross]

Calling means the favour and privilege of the invitation, our station in life (the example was given from the film 'The Princess Diaries')

A life worthy of the calling, from the passage, can be expanded in three ways:

1. Live in the light
2. Live in love
3. Live a life of imitation

Live in light

An active engagement in the new life which deals with: arguments, stealing, falsehood, unwholesome talk, grieving the Holy Spirit, bitterness, rage, brawling and slander

Chapter 5v8 tells us that we are children of the light and should live in the light

Question: How are we responding to God's challenge to live in the light and allow him to deal with these things?

Live in love

Chapter 4v2 bearing one another in love
Chapter 4v15 speak the truth in love
Chapter 5v2 walk in the way of love

Love is the Greek word 'Agape' – God's love and requires us to respond to others in the same way that we have received his love to ourselves

Question: What does it mean for us to respond to others in love so that we respond in the same way that God responds to us?

Live a life of imitation

Chapter 5v1 follow God's example or some translation say 'imitate God' or 'be like God'
He is our model, our way of living. God has given us Jesus as a model of how to live

Question: Are we prepared to let him lead us, be in charge, let him be Lord of all; our time, money, effort, careers, where and how we seek first the kingdom of God.

Colossians 1v9-10

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,[e] 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way:

Let us continue to pray that we would know his will so that we may live a life worthy of the Lord.

For further thought and prayer –**Connect**

1. What has been your highlight of the week – have you seen an answer to prayer? Even one which hasn't necessarily be spoken out!
2. Sing a song of worship together

Grow

3. What do we learn about Paul's encouragement for the three churches as he writes to encourage them to live a life worthy of the calling?
4. What do you understand by the phrase 'Living a life worthy of the calling you have received'?
5. How do we respond to the challenge of living in the light and allow Him to deal with these things that have been hidden?
6. What does it mean for us to respond to others 'in love'?
7. How are we living a life modelled on God – imitating Him? Is there a particular area of life you want to learn from God about?

Influence

8. Pray for each other, asking the Holy Spirit to help us, as we seek to live a life worthy of the calling.
9. Pray for three other people we are in relationship with, that they may know a relationship with God