

Sermon Series: *Identity*

7/1/26, “Living With Others,” Eph. 4:1-16, MEV

INTRODUCTION

MAIN IDEA: God wants us to grow with other Christians.

How? Here are five things we need to do.

I. First, live to honor Jesus...*walk worthy of our calling* (1-2)

Walk: live one's life, conduct **Worthy:** properly

Calling: invitation to accept benefits of His salvation (*Zodhiates*)

A. choose to have Christlike attitude (2)

1. **humility:** having absolute dependence on God; we have nothing but what He has given us
2. **meekness:** power, strength, passion under control; calm, unpretentious; pardons injuries, rules own spirit well (*Hayford*)
3. **patience:** lenience, forbearance, fortitude, patient endurance; ability to endure persecution & ill treatment (*a fruit of the Spirit, Hayford*)

B. bear with one another in love

Bearing: persevering, tolerating, putting up with, standing firm

1. Jesus shows unconditional love & we do too
2. Jesus is patient with slow growth & we are too
3. Jesus doesn't quit on us & we don't on one another

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, work to keep the unity of the Spirit (3-6)

Eager: do one's best **Keep:** guard **Bond:** what binds together

- A. God has already given us unity... **one:** *body, Spirit, Lord, faith, baptism, God & Father of all*
- B. by seeking peace with others through obeying God's word

Examples: 1. forgive all others (**Matthew 6:14-15**)

2. go to anyone who has something against us to do our best to reconcile (**Matthew 5:23-24**)
3. bear with one another (**Ephesians 4:2**)
4. do our best to live peaceably with all (**Rom. 12:18**)

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, serve the body using our gifts (7-11)

Gift: spiritual or supernatural, given only because of God's wisdom

Measure: with definite limitation, allotted

- A. each of us has been given gifts... *born with or received since salvation*
- B. given to us to use to help build up His body (**Eph. 4:16**)

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Fourth, receive equipping (12-14)

- A. to serve the body of Christ most effectively
- B. to be built up with others into a complete person in Christ
 1. helps come into unity of faith...*remove hindrances*
 2. helps have the knowledge of Christ collectively
 3. helps be stable... *vs. false doctrine & deceivers*

ILLUSTRATION:

V. Finally, speak the truth in love (15-16)

- A. respecting & loving those we are connected with in Christ
- B. strengthening His body, others—*we benefit because we are joined to them*
 1. helping each of us work effectively & grow
 2. building us all together up in love

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: