

Ephesians—Series Overview

God's Glory in His Church

The book of Ephesians was written to show Christ's glory at work in winning/perfecting the Church as His bride. It exhorts Christians to walk in the newness of life He has won for us according to the Father's kind intention in adopting us. It shows us who we are—the dead raised to life and made fellow citizens with all the saints. Based on who we already are, it invites us to walk in a manner worthy of our calling.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Rejoice! The God of the universe has revealed Himself to you today! Looking at this passage, what are specific things for which you can thank God? Do so now.

Obey God! He has given us life and the ability to praise Him.

- Live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle. Be patient (*bearing with one another in love*). Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit (*through bond of peace*).
- Confess to Him your failures in each of these. Ask His Spirit to enable you (us) to keep these commandments in our daily life.

Pray! Use the prayer in 3:16-21 as a way for praying for our siblings here at FCCW. Ask the Lord to work in us in these ways. Ask others to pray for you in these ways, too.

Ezra-Nehemiah—Series Overview

A Community Restored for Worship

The book of Ezra-Nehemiah was written to encourage God's people returning after exile to believe the covenant promises and restore the temple in Jerusalem. God's people were being restored in the place of promise as a worshipping community. The restoration of purpose was far greater than their real estate. The place always has to do with what God promised would happen there.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
November 11th, 2018

Morning Service:

Ephesians 4:1-6

Living Out the Unity Worthy of Our Calling

1. Remember Our Calling!
2. We Are United in This Bond of Peace.
3. Our Unity Is Secured by God Himself.

“The essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself; it is thinking of myself less.” —Tim Keller

Evening Service

Nehemiah 2: 1-20

Prayerful Action

1. Nehemiah Models How to Pray “Thy Kingdom Come ...”
2. Christ's Prayers and Actions Give Us This Boldness.
3. How Should We Pray and Act with Passion for His Name?

Nehemiah prays and acts for the welfare of God's people and the honoring of God's name. By faith he takes risks and acts wisely. He did these things remembering God's Word and trusting His faithfulness even when it could have cost him his life. We now have much more of God's faithfulness displayed through the finished work of Christ. How are we trusting God with our daily lives?

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Because of all that is true in the first three chapters, we are now urged to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling” to which we have been called. What is this calling? We have been called by our loving God to life in Christ, chosen as His beloved children, marked as recipients together of the inheritance of Him who has all authority and fills all things in every way! A high calling indeed! How on earth can we live up to this calling? He starts to show us in today’s passage by helping us to understand both our unity together and our unique calling.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Ephesians 4:1-6**. DISCUSS What does this passage teach about our unity together and our individuality? Which do you tend to stress at the expense of the other? Why? How can we learn to bear with one another in love? PRAY for God to convince us our unity in Christ. Ask Him for power to extend His grace throughout the world.

Sunday PM

READ today’s passage: **Nehemiah 2:1-20**. How did Nehemiah approach the king? How did that compare to his approach to the King in chapter one? PRAISE God for His loving care for us. REPENT of ways we give His glory to others.

Monday

READ **Ephesians 4:1-7; Philippians 1:27-30**. How does standing firm in the Spirit relate to having His unity? How are we to live together? REJOICE for God has gifted us with one another. PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends & family asking God to save them. EXTEND His grace to someone today. Lovingly, thoughtfully express to them in word and deed the grace Christ has lavished upon you.

Tuesday

READ **Ephesians 4:1-7; Colossians 1:9-14**. What does it mean to live a life worthy of our calling? How can we pray for one another? MEDITATE on this—God has made us to co-heirs with Christ!

Wednesday

READ **Ephesians 4:1-7; Colossians 3:12-17**. Both of these passages address *bearing with one another*. What does that mean? How do we do it? What specifically do you need to do differently today with this in mind? MEDITATE on the astonishing grace God has given to us. REJOICE if you have been adopted through Christ’s sacrifice. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for the fullness of Your love for us. We praise You for doing what only You could do in making us Your people. Help us proclaim and live out the reality of Your grace together.”

Thursday

READ **Ephesians 4:1-7; First Corinthians 12:1-11**. How does our unity with God and one another relate to our individual callings and giftings? Who is to receive the glory for Christ’s body working together? Why? PRAY, “Heavenly Father, help me and us at FCCW to trust You as we love one another.”

Friday

READ **Ephesians 4:1-7; First Corinthians 12:12-30**. How are we arranged in Christ’s body? According to whose desires? With whom are we arguing when we are unhappy with our role?

REJOICE for Christ has died ‘once for all’ obtaining for us eternal life! PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance. Pray that God will use you to bring them into His kingdom to the honor and praise of His name.

Saturday

READ **Ephesians 3:14-21**. What have you been learning this week? READ tomorrow’s sermon passage **Ephesians 4:7-16**. PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. PRAY for God’s glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Ask Him to use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.