

Ephesians for Everyman: *Identity Crisis*

Week Three: Ephesians 4

Whenever we join a “team” we begin to experience unity. We have a common purpose, we share common experiences (both good and bad), we develop bonds, encourage each other and move one another forward. Our unity creates identity which drives our actions.

“Therefore, I a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.” - Ephesians 4:1

God’s men remind each other of _____ in Christ!

God’s men remind one another of their true identity. God’s men lovingly convict each other, speaking the truth in love. We don’t need to call men _____, We need to call them _____.

Paul clearly spells out how god’s Man is to conduct himself, what a life “worthy of the gospel” looks like practically:

“Always be humbled and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowances for each other’s faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one spirit....” - Ephesians 4:2-4

According to Paul God’s man is _____, _____ and he _____ for the faults of those around him.

“Now these are the gifts that Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. The responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” - Ephesians 4:11-12

Who was it that Christ gave the gifts to? _____
And the gifts were meant to _____ God's people, in order
to _____ God's church.

"Take heed that no one deceives you...." - Matthew 24:4

We _____, by _____.

Lest we think that our maturity is something we are achieving for ourselves, Paul is quick to remind us that it is Christ working _____, and
_____ so that he can work _____.

Remember, all of this is achieved through **"...Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly."** - Ephesians 4:15 & 16

"With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity." - Ephesians 4:17-19

"But that isn't what you learned about Christ. Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception." - Ephesians 4:20-22

The Christian life is not merely the _____, but rather the relentless _____.

"Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God - truly righteous and holy." - Ephesians 4:23

"And don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil." - Ephesians 4:26-27

Jesus never let His _____ Him, he was only consumed by His _____. The same should be true of us!

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." - Ephesians 4:31-32

The list of "spiritual weeds" in this passage reminds us that:

- **Weeds often pop up after a good "rain".** Challenges often follow successes.
- **Weeds must be removed at the source.** Do the hard work, dig deep or they will just come back.
- **The hardest weeds to remove, are the ones closest to the core of the bush.** Like lies about the core of our identity, these are the hardest to remove.
- **It's hard to remove weeds, that look like flowers.** Deception that looks like truth is the hardest to recognize.

1. **Spot Lies, Knowing The Truth**
2. **In Us, On Us, Through Us**
3. **Avoidance of Sin, Pursuit of Christ's Righteousness**
4. **Anger Consume, Passion to Please The Father**