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| |  | | --- | | SUMMARY: In the first three chapters of his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul has built for them a foundation of their faith. It is a deeply profound and theological few chapters. Then in a simple phrase, often translated as therefore, he shifts the focus from theological truths to very practical realities.  These practical realities are summed up in the line: *I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received* (v.1). What Paul will go on to explain in the following three chapters is just what this worthy life looks like.  In verses 2-16, the focus of this application is around the very practical idea of unity within the church. It begins with some baseline attitudes in verse 2, before opening up the reason for our unity in the remaining verses.  The unity of the church is built on the fact that in Jesus we are all the same. He shows this by using the word one seven times pointing to a wide range of truths and realities. For the church to be united we need to see that we are all the same in Jesus because of our deep need for him.  Yet we are not all the same in every way, we are all also unique. We are different in our situations, our abilities and our opportunities. Paul doesn’t ignore this because he shows in verses 15, that Jesus himself has made us different, each with our own role to play and work to contribute.  When we work united, when we embrace our individual roles, we grow. Not only in number (v.12) but also in maturity (v.14). When the body of Christ works together, it will thrive. |  Ephesians 4:1-16 |  | |  | | --- | | We are all…  1. Why does how we live matter? 2. How would you define a life worthy of the gospel? (v.1) 3. Why do you think Paul begins the application of what he has taught in chapters 1-3 with the attitudes of v.2? 4. Which of the attitudes in v.2 do you struggle with most? 5. Why was it and is it essential for the church to be unified? (v.3) 6. In what ways do we struggle to accept the truths of verses 4-6? 7. What point is Paul making with his aside from Psalm 68? (v.7-10) 8. What is the point of the gifts that Jesus gave the church? (v.11) 9. Why is maturity the aim of the church and how do we attain it? (v.12-13) 10. How do we see the truth of verse 14 playing out in our own day? 11. What is the great remedy to the challenges of v.14? (v.15) 12. How dependent do we feel on Jesus and each other? 13. What is the implication of: *as each part does its work?* | |