

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 11/3/2019

Ephesians 4:1-6 – “Living Worthy of the Gospel” by Drew Hunter

Overview

The second half of Ephesians (chapters 4-6) tells us how to respond to the gospel truths of the first half. At the head of our response are the character qualities of humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and preserving unity.

Quotations

“The way to joyful, powerful, transformative Christianity is by holding both of these two halves [of Ephesians] together, and keeping them in the right order.” Drew Hunter

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it’s thinking of yourself less.” C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“He believes and feels his own weakness and unworthiness, and lives upon the grace and pardoning love of his Lord. This gives him an habitual tenderness and gentleness of spirit.” John Newton on how a Christian uses the gospel to produce humility (*Works*, 1:170).

Understanding & Application

- 1) Read Drew’s quote above and review its implications. What happens if we live only by the first half of Ephesians? What happens if we live only by the second half? What happens if we try to put the second half first?
- 2) Drew noted that Paul’s tone in Ephesians 4:1 communicates urgency. Why would this be so? Review the major themes of Ephesians 1-3 and discuss how they demand the response of a transformed life. Do you feel this sense of urgency?
- 3) Describe some events typical of life in a local church that require bearing with one another in love. How does it look in such situations to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?
- 4) Review and discuss each of the seven aspects of unity given in Ephesians 4:4-6. Be sure to note the communal aspect of each, not just the individual aspect. Does the Lord call you to any specific actions or changes in response to these?
- 5) Review the first three chapters of Ephesians and find as many references as you can to one of the seven aspects of unity listed in Ephesians 4:1-6. Do any of these references cause you to view one or more of these aspects differently?