

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## Equipped for the Call Ephesians 4:1-16

Vs.1 Called

- ◆ You have been called by God
- ◆ If you answer there is an expectation (Luke 9:57-62)

Vs 2 Be lowly and gentle, patient and helpful. (Phil 2:3-4).

- ◆ These are not fighting words, they are uplifting words.
- ◆ They don't divide or conquer, they unite and build.

Vs 3 Not a bond of compulsion or even duty per se, but a bond of peace.

- ◆ Peace is intentional and should be fought for.
- ◆ It also has more to do with rest and calm than with striving. (John 14:27)

Vs 4-6 We are together in body in the ability to function. It's the basic mechanics of doing the work.

- ◆ We are empowered by one Spirit. Ever notice how before you do something dramatic you take in a breath?
- ◆ One hope in that the calling is coherent and resolute. It will happen and it is something we can follow.
- ◆ One Lord speaks to the authority and the Who of the calling.
- ◆ One faith speaks to the belief and internal commitment to the calling.
- ◆ One baptism speak to the outward commitment to the calling and desire to be prepared/cleansed
- ◆ One God and Father of all speaks to power, authority and familiarity.
- ◆ He is above all in that He sees all that is happening and is not effected by it.
- ◆ He is through all in that He is the is the One working out your calling.
- ◆ He is in you all in that He apart of everything or in some sense the substance of everything.

Are my definitions hard and fast without quarter for disagreement? No, they are general observations that speak to a larger theme that God is One. (Deut 6:4) He is showing us His complete character.

Vs 7-8 By the grace of God:

- ◆ The grace we get is measured out by how generous Jesus has shown Himself to be.
- ◆ He set and made us free. The King James says He led captivity captive. It's an idiom to express the idea of total victory. Not only did He set us free, but He bound that which could captivate us again.

Vs 9 He came down to us and died for us. Why? So He could fill all things.

- ◆ He shows us that there is no escape from Him. (Rom 8:37-39)
- ◆ He overcomes.

Vs 11 And He gave gifts.

- ◆ Apostles; those that lead
- ◆ Prophets; those that speak
- ◆ Evangelists; those that share
- ◆ Pastors; those that care
- ◆ Teachers; those that teach

These definitions are not definitive. It merely shows us that although our gifts are specialized they are also to be used in concert together.

Vs 12 Why?

- ◆ For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body.
- ◆ That is our Calling. Our purpose.

Vs 13 How do we know we're getting there?

- ◆ Unity of the faith: Drawn together to work together. You could say till all are ONE like in John 17, but I believe this passages is emphasizing on the coming together aspect. Unity's fullest expression is oneness.
- ◆ Knowledge of the Son of God: truly understanding Who He is. More that feeling or devotion, but understanding.
- ◆ He is the perfect man. The Anointed One. The Messiah. The Savior.

Vs 14 What is against us?

- ◆ Winds of doctrine: We're drawn to the latest thing, not a unified story that leads to Jesus.
- ◆ Trickery of men: people want power and control and will use other to get it.
- ◆ They are smart, they are deceitful.
- ◆ They are no match for truth.

Vs 15 How do we combat it?

- ◆ Truth in love: Embracing and believing what God says
- ◆ Applying it in a way that shows care
- ◆ This fosters growth in becoming like Christ

Vs 16 A whole body: knit together causes strength which is effectuated through joints.

- ◆ Each part of the body does what it does best.
- ◆ When that happens there is health and love.

Where did He go for us? Everywhere.

What did He do for us? Everything.

What things did He give to us? All things.

Growth Questions:

Are you becoming more like Christ?

Are you being drawn to knowing Jesus more or the latest fad?

Are you doing your share?

Are you using your gifts to help others grow closer to Christ?