

EPHESIANS 4 NOTES

Chapters 1-3 focus = Who we are and what God's plan is
Chapter 4 shifts = "Now get to it!"

Verse 1 – Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to live worthy of the calling you have received.

What is this calling we have received and how do we live worthy of it?

- In chapters one through three, Paul has pointed us to what we have received—adoption by God, redemption through Christ, and sealing of the Holy Spirit.
- Now, in chapter four, he will begin to instruct us on the specific ways what we have received must impact and even change how we function in the world.

Verses one through six are a call to unity within the body. Make note of how many times Paul uses the word "one." But as he moves into verses seven through 17, we are reminded that our one call is evidenced in many ways.

Note that in verse 11 Paul lists some of the specific callings. We tend to assign those to "professional ministers." But in verse 12 he reveals WHY they have received their callings – and it's not for their sake but for ours ... "equipping the saints for the work of ministry."

The work of ministry is not for the professional minister but for every member of the Body of Christ – all of us. We work together in unity with a desire to grow.

Verses 20-24 call us to take off the old self and put on the new. (Refer back to the chart on Old Life v. New Life for more on what this means.) The changes in us should be evident. And we must realize this is not a one-time only thing. **We have been changed, are still changing, and will continue to be changed.**

Choices before us in verses 25-32:

- Truth v. Lies (v. 25)
- Sinful anger v. Righteous anger (v. 26-27)
- Stealing v. Hard work (v. 28)
- Rotten talk v. Wholesome talk (v. 29-30)
- Bitterness v. Compassion (v. 31-32)

Why do we pursue holiness?

1. The good of our neighbors (v. 25, 28-29)
2. The pleasure of God (v. 30)
3. The imitation and appreciation of God's work in Christ (v. 31, 5:1-2)