

## Lesson 8

### Church Matters to the Church!

#### Sharing Question:

How do you know when something “matters” to someone? When something is important to you, how does that special interest present itself? How would you describe the effort you put into your “priorities?”

#### Study and Discussion Questions:

1. In Ephesians 4:1, Paul urges his readers to “live a life worthy of their calling.” Based on those Scriptures which speak of such a “calling” (Ephesians 1:18; Romans 8:29-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14), how would you describe the “calling” they had received? What would it mean to live a life worthy of that calling? **Application:** What “matters” enough to you that it affects the choices you make in your life and the energy you apply to those choices?
2. In His prayer (John 17:20-21), Jesus made it very clear that “unity” among the believers is a matter of great importance to God. If this unity is something which the Spirit of God makes possible, how should we interpret the encouragement to the church to “make every effort” to keep it? (Ephesians 4:3) **Application:** How has the religious community tried to answer this call to “unity?” What is typically missing in such a response?
3. What is the difference between “unity” and “uniformity?” According to Ephesians 4:2-3, how is “unity” to be pursued? How would you describe the spiritual attitudes included in this pursuit? **Application:** In your experience, would you say that most division in the church is the result of false doctrines or foul dispositions? What Scripture helps you most in the cultivation of good attitudes that promote “the bond of peace?”
4. Of what importance to the church’s quest for unity is the statement of “one’s” given in Ephesians 4:4-6? How is this different from the “creeds” that so often divide believers? **Application:** What happens to unity if you leave out the doctrines and concentrate on love alone?
5. What does Ephesians 4:7-13 have to do with the church’s pursuit of unity? Who “descended,” then “ascended,” and gave “gifts” to men? How does the text describe those “gifts?” How does 1 Corinthians 12 describe the importance of such “gifts?” **Application:** Who has been a “gift” to your spiritual growth and to the unity of your church?

6. What is the singular goal of the church's diligent pursuit of unity, according to Ephesians 4:12-16? What are some of the side-benefits of such a pursuit? What happens when the church abandons this goal and its pursuit in unity? (Revelation 2:4-5) **Application:** How many "ministers" are in your church? What would you describe as your "part," or "work," in the ministry goals of your church?

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