

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

ID: Discovering Our True Identity in Christ “True North” Ephesians 4:1-16

Ken Dryden, October 26, 2014

Sermon Summary

Many of us struggle with what our calling in life is. What is it that we are put on this earth to do? What is it that integrates and gives meaning to all our other “callings”? Each of us needs to have a “True North” in our lives, a sense of calling that defines who we are and what is most important to us. The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 4:1 “I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” In the previous part of Ephesians (ch.1-3) he lays the foundation for who we are and what God has done; chapters 4-6 talk about how we live out that calling. All of these things flow out of a proper understanding of our Identity in Christ. Over and over it comes back to this. This is Who You Are - therefore this is the life you are called to.

The passage from Ephesians 4 is all about UNITY in the church. Part of our calling from God is to maintain the unity of the Spirit - to do the things that maintain and strengthen this unity. It is foundational to our calling. It all flows from God –Who He is (One God ... 4:5,6) and what He has done and continues to do. We don’t create unity - we receive it as a gift. If we are to maintain this unity we will need to grow in humility, patience and love. We will need to grow up into the fullness of Christ and each of us will need to do our part.

Key Verse: Ephesians 4:1 “Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.”

Bottom Line: “Our calling is a compass that shows us where our True North is.”

Group Discussion Questions:

(There is lots of potential for discussion in this passage. Please do not feel like you have to cover all the questions. Follow God’s leading as to what is most important for your group to discuss.)

1. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Read Ephesians 4:1- 16 twice, pausing between readings. What words or phrases stand out to you? What, do you think, God is saying to you?
2. As followers of Christ we are called to a common purpose, with different works for us to do (Ephesians 2:10 and 4:12). What is our calling or common purpose as followers of Christ? How is that different from the works He prepared for us?
3. Discuss the analogy of our purpose being a compass, pointing to Jesus Christ, our true north, as we carry out the works, roles and use the gifts prepared for us. How would this impact your work, roles and gifting this week?
4. Verses 4 and 5 emphasize unity in Christ and a common purpose. We are encouraged to live in humility, patience and love, maintaining peace and unity.
 - How do we live out humility, patience and love without being a “doormat”?
 - What is our role in maintaining unity within the church?
5. Ephesians 4:14 cautions us about deception. What distractions or potential deceptions would you identify in your own life?
6. We are encouraged, in Ephesians 4:15, to grow up into Christ. What does this look like in your life? How can you ensure you are growing up in Christ? How can we hold you accountable this week?

Make sure to leave time to pray for one another!