

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What Does God Want as a Finished Product?

Ephesians 4:1-6

1 What does God want as a final product?

Our scripture passage today is from Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 1 through 6. 2

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

When you gave your life to the Lord, you were born again. God made you a new creation and you were adopted into His family. As a family member you are justified, made righteous and enter into a saved status. 3

God's word says that when you repent and are baptized, God indwells you with His Holy Spirit to

empower you to become what He saved you to be. ¹ ₄
The rest of your life is to be a building process to
perfect God's product; His workmanship. ² ₅

Two very important words are found in verse 1.
Calling is your adoption as a child of God. You have
that special status! ₆

Worthy is the special product of righteousness God
intends for His adopted children to have. My wife and I
told our children as they were growing up that their
last name "Thomason", was a special name. We
expected them to live up to it. God gave you the name
"Christian". His plan is for you to live up to that
special status. ₇

So, what are the attitudes God wants to produce in
you and how does He plan to do it? ₈

¹ Acts 2:38 - Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

² Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

I. What's the Final Product? - v2-3

What's the final product? Verses 2 and 3, **Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.**

Years ago, when I was an active duty chaplain stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, the current new counseling therapy was called Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy. I received permission to take Temporary Duty to attend a week long lecture by Dr. Albert Ellis, the psychologist who introduced this therapy to the counseling world. 9

This concept is that your feelings can be controlled by your behavior and your attitudes at any given time!

His classic example was; suppose you and your wife are having an argument. It's pretty heated; at the shouting level. Then the phone rings. You grab the receiver and, while glaring at your wife, say, "Hello", in a very pleasant voice. The conversation may

continue for several minutes until you hang up. Then, it's back to the argument!

While you were talking on the telephone your tone of voice was not only pleasant, you also felt pleasant. Your behavior had control over how you were feeling. What you were doing controlled how you felt!

If you can master certain positive behaviors as a way of life you can take control of how you feel. In fact you can have a victorious life even when the world is caving in around you! ¹⁰

So, what are the attitudes and behaviors God wants you to develop in your life? Verse 2 gives you three very important ones. ^{3 11}

The first is **humbleness. ⁴ This is the word for modesty. The King James translation is “lowliness of mind”. ¹²**

³ Ephesians 4:2 - Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

⁴ ταπεινοφροσύνη.

The world contends that humbleness is weakness. ¹³
But God says, **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment.** ⁵ ¹⁴

You are to have the mind of Christ! Philippians, chapter 2, verses 5 through 8, **Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!** ¹⁵ You get this attitude by being honest with yourself and with others! ¹⁶

The second is to become **gentle**. ⁶ The King James translation is “meekness”. It’s the ability you have to do something, but the restraint you have not to. ¹⁷

⁵ Romans 12:3.

⁶ πραύτης.

Meekness does not mean weakness! ¹⁸ Moses was said to be meek! ⁷ ¹⁹ Lord Jesus called Himself meek. ⁸ He could have summoned twelve legions of angels, but He didn't! ⁹ ²⁰

The third is **patience.** ¹⁰ It literally means “long-tempered”; so, longsuffering or perseverance. ²¹ This word is defined in the next phrase of verse 2, **bearing with one another in love!** ²² First Thessalonians, chapter 5, verse 11, puts it this way, **Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.** The world says, “Get ahead by tromping on others.” God says, “Build others up to your level!” ²³

Verse 3 sums up these three attitudes with, **Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.** The church is a family. We're a team! We work together so the church benefits.

⁷ Numbers 12:3 - Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.

⁸ Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart . . .

⁹ Matthew 26:53 - Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

¹⁰ μακροθυμία.

Our son, Jake, excelled in basketball and volleyball in high school. Our family attended as many of the games together as we could (most of them). We cheered for our team even when our son was not playing! It was our (family) team! ²⁴

II. How Will God Make This Happen? - v4-6

How will God make this happen? Verses 4 through 6, There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ²⁵

The church is necessary!

When we lived in the San Francisco bay area there was a radio evangelist named Harold Camping who broadcasted about every day. He was well known in our Christian community because he stated that all churches had fallen away from the truth. He discouraged his radio listeners from participating in any church!

Hebrews, chapter 10, verse 25, says, Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. The teaching and encouragement of the church is not optional. Forsaking the assembly of the saints will not produce Christian growth! ²⁶

Verse 4 states that the church is necessary as the **one body** and **Spirit**. ²⁷ There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called.

God did not intend for His church to be fractured over names, creeds and interpretations! ¹¹ ²⁸

The one Spirit is the Spirit of God. ²⁹

There are spirits in this world we can't see. The Bible calls them demons. These spirits are of the devil. So

¹¹ One of the main purposes of our Christian Church, known historically as The Restoration Movement, is to encourage the restoration of biblical names for things rather than divisive historical ones.

stay away from them! Anything that is supernatural but not of God is of Satan. That's the occult! ³⁰

The church can have problems and still be the church!

³¹

Consider the church at Corinth. They had conflict among their leadership. ¹² ³² They had a case of incest. ¹³ ³³ They may have had drunkenness at the Lord's Table. ³⁴ They misused spiritual gifts. ¹⁴ ³⁵ They had

¹² I Corinthians 1:10-15 - - I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized into my name.

¹³ I Corinthians 5:1 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife.

¹⁴ I Corinthians 12 & 14.

doubts about the resurrection. ¹⁵ ₃₆ But the apostle still called them **the church of God!** ¹⁶ ₃₇

Verses 5 and 6 states that the church is necessary in **providing one plan of salvation, . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all** . . . ₃₈

It's the church that **points you to one Lord**; the Lord Jesus. John, chapter 14, verse 6, **Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"**. ₃₉

It's the church that **points you to one faith**. John, chapter 3, verse 16, **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.** ₄₀

It's the church that **points you to one baptism**. Galatians, chapter 3, verse 27, . . . **for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.** ₄₁

¹⁵ I Corinthians 15.

¹⁶ I Corinthians 1:2 - To the church of God in Corinth.

It's the church that **points you to one loyalty**; God the Father: . . . **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all** . . . ¹⁷ 42

If you want all God has in store for you, both in this life and in the next, become everything God wants in His final product!

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>

¹⁷ Ephesians 4:6.