

# What Does God Want as a Finished Product?

*Ephesians 4:1-6*

Intro:

1. When you gave your life to the Lord, you were born again. God made you a new creation & you were adopted into His family.
2. As a family member you are justified, made righteous & enter into a saved status.
3. God's word says that when you are baptized, God indwells you with His Holy Spirit to empower you to become what He saved you to be. (**Act 2:38**)
4. The rest of your life is to be a building process to perfect God's product - His workmanship. (**Eph 2:10**)
5. Important words in **verse 1**:
  - a. **Calling** - that's your adoption as a child of God. You have that special status!
  - b. **Worthy** - that's the final product of righteousness God intends for His adopted children to have. **ILL: You live up to the Thomason name!**
6. So what are the attitudes God wants to produce in you & how does He plan to do it?

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

- A. Dr. Albert Ellis developed the theory of Rational Emotive Therapy.
  1. **ILL: The Albert Ellis Lectureship I attended in El Paso.**
  2. The idea: your feelings can be controlled by your behavior & your attitude at any given time. **ILL: Arguing with your wife & then answering the telephone pleasantly.**
- B. So what are the attitudes & behaviors God wants to develop in your life?
  1. **v2 - Humbleness** (ταπεινοφροσύνη) = modesty, (KJV) lowliness of mind.
    - a. The world says that humbleness is weakness.
    - b. God says **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment.** - Rom 12:3.
    - c. You are to have the mind of Christ. **Phil 2:5-8 - 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!**
    - d. You get this attitude by being honest with yourself & others.
  2. **v2 - Gentle** (πραΰτης) = (KJV) meekness - the ability to do it but the restraint not to.
    - a. Meekness does not mean weakness.
    - b. Moses was said to be meek (**Num 12:3** - KJV).
    - c. The Lord called Himself meek (**Matt 11:29**). He could have summoned 12 legions of angels, but He didn't! (**Matt 26:53**)

3. **v2 - Patient** (μακροθυμία) = lit. long-tempered, longsuffering, perseverance.
  - a. Patience is defined in the next phrase, **bearing with one another in love.**  
**I Thess 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.**
  - b. The world says, “get ahead by tromping on others”, but God says, “build others up to your level”.
4. **v3 - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit!**
  - a. The church is a family - we’re a team. We work together so the church benefits.
  - b. **ILL: We cheered for the team even when Jacob wasn’t playing.**

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

- A. The church is necessary.
  1. Harold Camping’s Family Radio program states all churches have fallen away from the truth & discourages participation in any church.
  2. **Heb 10:25 - 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.**
    - a. The encouragement & teachings of the church are not optional.
    - b. Forsaking the assembly of the saints will not produce Christian growth!
- B. **v4 - The church is necessary as the **one body & Spirit**.**
  1. God did not intend for His church to be fractured over names, creeds & interpretations.  
**ILL: One of the purposes of our Christian Church movement’s existence.**
  2. The one Spirit is the Spirit of God!
    - a. There are spirits in this world which we can’t see - called demons.
    - b. These spirits are of the devil - so stay away from them.
    - c. Anything that is supernatural but not of God is of Satan. That’s the occult!
  3. The church can have problems & still be the church! **Notice the Corinthian church:**
    - a. They had conflict among their leadership (**I Cor 1:10-15**).
    - b. They had a case of incest (**I Cor 5:1**).
    - c. They may have had drunkenness at the Lord’s Table.
    - d. They misused spiritual gifts (**I Cor 12 - 14**).
    - e. They had doubts about the resurrection (**I Cor 15**).
    - f. But the apostle still called them **the church of God (I Cor 1:2)**!
- C. **v5-6 - The church is necessary in providing one plan of salvation.**
  1. It’s the church that points you to one Lord - the Lord Jesus. **Jn 14:6 - Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**
  2. It’s the church that points you to one faith. **Jn 3:16 - 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.**
  3. It’s the church that points you to one baptism. **Gal 3:27 - for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**
  4. **v6 - It’s the church that points you one loyalty - God the Father.**

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