



**THE COMMUNITY OF THE KING**

**A CHARISMATIC COMMUNITY**

Ephesians 4:1-16

We are all called to do, not extraordinary things, but very ordinary things with extraordinary love that flows from the heart of God... Love is communion, communion with God and with our brothers and sisters. Love is manifested in all the little things of life that build community, not in heroic acts.

Jean Vanier

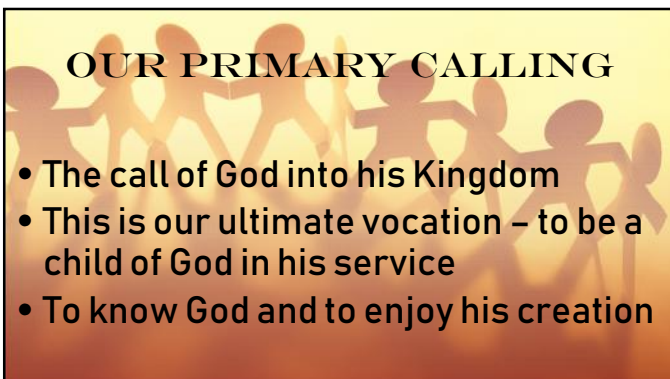


**SHAPED BY LOVE**

Ephesians 4:1-6

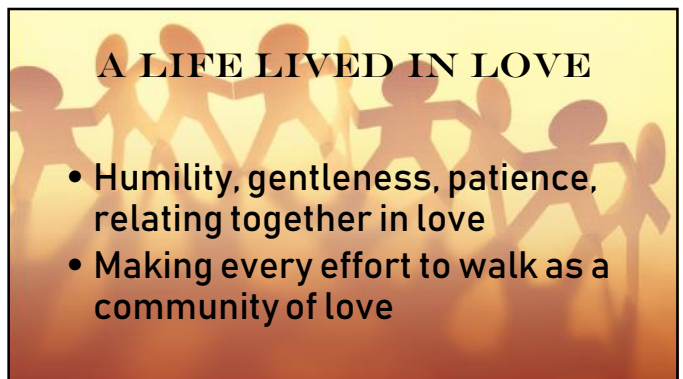
I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3



**OUR PRIMARY CALLING**

- The call of God into his Kingdom
- This is our ultimate vocation – to be a child of God in his service
- To know God and to enjoy his creation



**A LIFE LIVED IN LOVE**

- Humility, gentleness, patience, relating together in love
- Making every effort to walk as a community of love

## A LIFE LIVED IN UNITY

- Six 'ones' (v4-6) emphasize the unity we have in Jesus
- The command is to demonstrate this fundamental unity

## SHAPED BY CHARISMATIC DIVERSITY

Ephesians 4:7-12

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ... The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:7, 11-12

## EACH IS GIFTED

- "Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift" (v7)
- 'All of us come...' (v13)
- 'Each part is working' (v16)

## THE GIFTS

- Examples are listed but it is not a complete list
- 'The gifts he gave' (v11)
- See also Romans 12:3,6; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

## THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS

- The 'work of ministry' (v12) – building up the body of Christ
- Without these diverse gifts the body does not function

## EVERY GIFT IS REQUIRED

- Pastors/teachers equip but the real work is done by every member
- We all become 'little Christs' in the sharing of Christ's love
- No spectators, only participants in Christ's ongoing work

until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephesians 4:13

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16

## SHAPED BY CONNECTIVITY

Ephesians 4:13-16

## THE GOAL: SPIRITUAL MATURITY

- A call to spiritual growth – to live as spiritual adults not babes (v14)
- We become perfect when we finally face 'the perfect one' (v13) – Maturity = 'the perfect man (Christ)

## CHRIST: THE HEAD/SOURCE

- Not a picture of hierarchy, but the source of life – as in the source of a river

## HELD TOGETHER IN CHRIST

- Each part works properly
- Promotes the body's growth
- The whole body joined and knitted together (v16)

## EACH PART FULFILLING ITS ROLE

- Protestant Reformation – the priesthood of all believers
- Everyone using their gifts for the Kingdom of God

## GOING FORWARD

### I. AN ENLIVENED COMMUNITY

- Not a boring, monotonous community
- A diverse people using their gifts

### II. A GROWING COMMUNITY

- Not static
- A deepening fellowship, a vibrant community
- Reaching out to new people in new ways

### III. AN ENTHUSIASTIC COMMUNITY

- Not complacent
- Every-member ministry
- Each person recognizing and expressing their gifts

### IV. A CHRIST-FILLED COMMUNITY

- The church cannot survive without their 'head'
- We must always locate ourselves in Jesus
- The centre of our community is always love

The task of the whole church and of every saint is to carry out a work of service for the praise of God and the benefit of all who need it. There are needy people inside the church. There are even more people in want outside the church. The church can find life only by losing her life in the service entrusted to her.

Markus Barth