

Ephesians 4:1–7

The Proper Manner of Church Members

Main idea: “Church member” is a calling, as part of Christ’s congregation in heaven and earth, to a particular manner of conduct in a particular congregation on earth.

¹I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. ⁷But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Introduction

The grace of being a prisoner (v1, 7; cf. 3:1, 7–8)

1. The Calling of a Church Member

- a. Walk in good works, v1. 2:8–10; 5:15–6:9
- b. Participate in the building, v3–4. 4:16, 15, 12–14; 2:19–22

2. The Congregation of a Church Member

- a. Unified across heaven and earth, v4b–6. 3:8–19; 2:4–7; 1:19–20
- b. Unified with glorified saints, who are a display to the angels.
- c. Unified with not-yet-glorified saints, who are still a display to the angels.

3. The Conduct of a Church Member

- a. Lowliness. (before God and man)
- b. Gentleness. (strength under control)
- c. Longsuffering. (long-spirited)
- d. Bearing.

Conclusion

“Church member” is a calling, as part of Christ’s congregation in heaven and earth, to a particular manner of conduct in a particular congregation on earth.