

## Holy Spirit – The work of unity

---

### The Work of the Holy Spirit: Unity and Maturity

For me, the current Euro 24 football competition gives me a chance to observe and reflect on unity. Talents alone are not enough! What really makes a difference is a team that *co-operates* and *enjoys* playing *together*. Teams with less talent, but greater unity have shown better results than teams with lots of talent, but a lack of unity.

Read Psalm 133

The Psalm exalts the goodness that takes place when a faith community *co-operates* and *enjoys* working *together*. Thinking back at sport teams and make a list of:

- What promotes and sustains their unity?
- What endangers their unity?

Now read Ephesians 4. 1-6

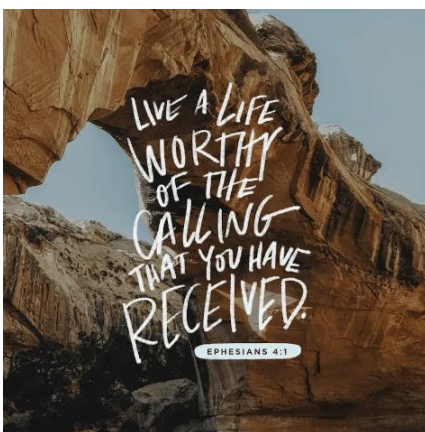
- What can you add to your list?

Paul writes this letter from prison and he urges the Christians living in Ephesians to “live a life worthy of the calling they have received.” In our Western culture, we often read this verse individually and of course, it is important to grow individually in holiness. Nevertheless, Paul is here concerned with their life *together*.



For Paul, a Christian group (church) is a community of people that seeks to express the life, the character and the intentions of God Himself. They are to be a community of love, sharing godly interests and concerns, rejoicing in the Spirit’s gifts and abilities of others, caring deeply for one another.

- How is this a reality in your group, in the church?
- How can it grow and flourish even more?



Read Ephesians 4. 7, 11-13

Paul continues to explain what “living a life worthy of the calling” implies for the local faith community.

In a healthy team, each member has a distinctive part to play, a distinctive service to perform, for the effective functioning of the whole.

- In our passage who appoints, how and with what means?

## Holy Spirit – The work of unity

---

Paul insists that every believer is given a “grace” to perform a task, a service, a role in the faith community.

He also stresses that the purpose of our communal serving is threefold:

- The equipping of Saints
- The work of service in the faith community
- The building of the body of Christ (expressing together what a redeemed community looks like)

Your LifeGroup is the place where you are equipped, encouraged and where God’s gifts can be explored and used.

- How do you express that in your group?
- What do you see in each other?

Prayer:

Holy Spirit thank you for your transforming presence within us, for equipping us to acts of service, for joining us together in a local faith community.

Lord, bind us together. We are brothers and sisters called to build each other up and manifest your presence and purpose at home, at work and in our community. Lord strengthen, sustain and guide.