

The Christian's Calling
The Call To Spiritual Maturity: Part One
Pastor Steve

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3 NIV

...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:13 NIV

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2 NIV

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. Ephesians 4:17

Four Truths Of Christian Unity

4. Christian unity ought to encourage us toward **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**.

...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Key Verses of the Day

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV

Key Thought of the Day

Becoming a Christian involves a _____.

Two Types of Lives

1. Life Without Christ... Leads to a life of _____.

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. Ephesians 4:17-19 NIV

• Unbelievers have an ineffective _____.

...you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

• Unbelievers are ignorant of God's _____ for their lives.

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them...

• Unbelievers have a _____ toward God.

...due to the hardening of their hearts.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Ezekiel 36:26-27 NIV

That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ... Ephesians 4:20-21a NIV

Two Types of Lives

2. Life With Christ... Leads to a life of _____ and approval.

• Christians learn _____.

...the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ...

"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." Matthew 19:21 NIV

• Christians understand _____ that Christ has done in their lives.

...when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

• Christians adopt a new way of _____.

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

The Bottom Line

You had an _____ life that you left behind when you came to faith in Christ... and now you have a _____ life that is provided by the work of Christ.

The Challenge

Are you living the New Life in Christ?