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“Our Calling” (Piece Of Work Series - Ep. V)

“Now **to Him who is able** to do **immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to **His power** that is at work within us...” **Eph. 3:20**

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of **the calling you have received**. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another **in love**. Make every effort to **keep the unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were **called** to one hope when you were **called**; one Lord, **one faith, one baptism; one God and Father** of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” **Ephesians 4:1-6**

“I **therefore**, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the **calling** to which you have been **called**...” **Ephesians 4:1** (ESV)

“It is your job to **protect the** \_\_\_\_\_ of your church. Unity in the church is so important that the New Testament gives more attention to it than to either heaven or hell. God deeply desires that we experience **oneness** and **harmony with each other**. Unity is the soul of fellowship. Destroy it, and you rip the heart out of Christ’s Body. It is the essence, the core, of how God intends for us to experience life together in His church. Our supreme model for unity is the Trinity. The **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit** are completely **unified as one**. God himself is the highest example of sacrificial love, humble other-centeredness, and perfect harmony.” **-Rick Warren**

“When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, shouting, “Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against **our people** and **our law** and this place. And besides, he has brought **Greeks into the temple** and **defiled** this holy place.” **Acts 21:27-28**

“For this reason I, Paul, the **prisoner** of Christ Jesus for the sake of you **Gentiles**...” **Ephesians 3:1**

“...to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring **unity** to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.” **Ephesians 1:10**

Jesus is bringing together all of the fragments and broken pieces of society in His church, in **unity**.

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“For He Himself is our peace, who has made the **two groups one** and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself **one new humanity** out of the two, thus **making peace**...”

**Ephesians 2:14-15**

“...and in **one body** to **reconcile** both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.” **Ephesians 2:16**

Our divisions have already been put to death, but whether or not we choose to believe it is a whole other story.

“This mystery is that through the Gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, **members together of one body**, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” **Ephesians 3:6**

“There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called to **one hope** when you were **called**...” **Ephesians 4:4**

“So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the **body of Christ** may be built up...” **Ephesians 4:11-12**

Three images of what the church looks like in Ephesians:

**1. Church = \_\_\_\_\_**

“In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.” **Ephesians 2:21-22**

**2. Church = \_\_\_\_\_**

**3. Church = \_\_\_\_\_**

“Difference and Distinction should never bring Division.”

**-Dr. Manny Arango**

Although we were created equal, we don’t have to be the same.

“**Our calling** is not to create unity, but to keep it!” **-Steven MacDonald**

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### 3. Church = New Humanity

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