



Growth Group Questions
October 18, 2026
“Our Calling”

CONTEXT

In the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul describes what God has done through Jesus Christ. Paul talked about how God chose us, redeemed us, brought us into his family, and is now creating a new humanity out of people who were once divided. In chapter 4 Paul moves from talking about what God has done to how we are called to live in response to God’s grace.

Paul begins by urging the Ephesians to live a life worthy of the calling they have received. The word “worthy” ‘has to do with the idea of living in a way that corresponds to something that has already been given, not earning something we hope to receive. Our calling begins with God's initiative, and the life we live is our response to the One who has called us into relationship with Himself.

Paul then describes what it looks like to live a life “worthy of the calling.” Humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love. These qualities are necessary for a community learning to live together as God's people. The church is made up of people with different backgrounds, personalities, and experiences and living out our calling requires learning how to walk alongside one another.

Paul urges the church to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Paul does not tell them to create unity but to preserve the unity God has already established through Christ. Unity is God's gift to the church, but maintaining it requires a lot of work.

Paul concludes with a series of seven affirmations centered on the word “one”: one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all. The unity of the church is not found in everyone being alike or agreeing about everything, but in belonging to the same Lord who is over all, through all, and in all.

SCRIPTURE AND QUOTE

Oz Guinness, *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*

“We cannot find God without God. We cannot reach God without God. We cannot satisfy God without God - which is another way of saying that our seeking will always fall short unless God’s grace initiates the search and unless God’s call draws us to him and completes the search.”

Ephesians 4:1-6

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Luke 19:1-10

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” ⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Psalms 71:17-18

¹⁷Since my youth, God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
¹⁸Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Paul quoted a passage from Oz Guinness' book *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* to help explain what is meant by "God's calling." What strikes you most about this quote?
2. Pastor Paul said that each of us is called by God out of the place where we are lost, and into the place where we know we are found; where we are seen, where we are known and where we are loved. What does this mean to you and how does it help you to better understand what it means to be called by God?
3. What do you understand to be the primary calling of each follower of Christ?
4. What are some of the potential secondary ways in which we are called by God?
5. What does it mean to you to "walk in a manner worthy" of our calling? (Ephesians 4:1)
6. Pastor Paul said that we are called to walk alongside others and in Ephesians 4:2-3, the Apostle Paul tells us we are to do this by being completely humble, gentle and patient, bearing with one another in love and making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. How can we more intentionally cultivate these qualities?
7. Pastor Paul also said that we are called to persevere through the difficult times in our lives. What have you found helpful as you seek to persevere when life gets hard?
8. Finally, Pastor Paul said we are called to "finish well." What does it mean to you to "finish well"?
9. What do you want most to remember or apply in your life from this week's sermon?

PASTOR PAUL'S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. Is there a place in your life where Jesus is calling you to follow Him more faithfully? Is there something you need to leave behind?
2. Prayer Practice – Unity. Pray for someone you struggle to get along with and ask God for the humility and patience to walk alongside them in love.