

Week of December 3, 2023
Series: The Story, Ch. 9, Pt. 8
Sermon: Walk the Walk
Text: Ephesians 4:1-16

Sermon Outline:

Biblical Truth: Churches and Christians are called to walk in a manner worthy of Jesus.

- 1. Be united. (1-6)**
 - a. By your calling. (1)
 - b. By your conduct. (2-3)
 - c. By your confession. (4-6)
- 2. Be diverse. (7-12)**
 - a. In your gifting. (7-10)
 - b. In your roles. (11)
 - c. In your responsibilities. (12)
- 3. Be mature. (13-16)**
 - a. Having Christlike faith. (13)
 - b. Having stable doctrine. (14)
 - c. Having active love. (15-16)

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. Think about your close relationships such as your family, work team, sports team, friendships, etc. What are the things that unite you in those relationships? In the church, it's calling, conduct, and confession.
 - Discuss how through one or more of those categories, you have experienced a bond with other believers.
 - How would a lack of common calling, conduct, or confession impact unity in the church?
 - Have you ever experienced a deficiency in any of those categories, and thus leading to disunity?
2. Read Ephesians 4:7-12. Focus on v10. Jesus "ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things" (ESV). The NIV translates the last phrase: "in order to fill the whole universe".
 - Discuss the connection between vv7-8 and vv11-12 and how those verses might inform this last phrase in v10.
 - What does it mean that Jesus ascended "in order to fill the whole universe" and how should that impact your life?
3. Read Eph 4:13-16. Focus on v15. A major way Christians grow up into Christ is by speaking the "truth in love". The late Pastor Tim Keller wrote: *"Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it. Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws."* *
 - In your relationships, do you lean more towards communicating truth (without love) or love (without truth)?
 - How is the Gospel both and why is it crucial in all things to speak the truth in love?

* Timothy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*