

“Seeing Church as a Sandwich!”

Series: Learning to Live “in Christ” - Ephesians

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“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the **calling** you have received.” Ephesians 4:1

Chapters 1-3 are a detailed explanation of these Gentile Christ-followers’ **Calling**:

- This **Calling** includes an **explanation of God’s Plan**.

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

- This **Calling** includes a reminder of **how the Calling was Accomplished**.

“For **we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” 2:10

- This **Calling** includes our inclusion into a “Living Stone Temple” aka **the Church**

“His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms” 3:10

In trying to think of a way to help me & I hope us grasp it, I would ask that we think of a Sandwich!

- **The First Slice of BREAD in the Sandwich is _____**

“Be **completely humble and gentle**; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² **If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing**. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” I Corinthians 13:1-3

- **The MEAT of the Sandwich is the _____ of the Called.**

“There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called to **one** hope when you were called; ⁵ **one** Lord, **one** faith, one baptism; ⁶ **one** God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:4-6

A problem in the American Church is that every Church has its own set of Essentials! This creates 2 problem areas:

*Problem 1: Does my list of Essentials match those of the Bible?

*Problem 2: If my understanding of the Essentials is correct, do I represent them correctly?

The Second Slice of BREAD in the Sandwich is _____

“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, **he took many captives and gave gifts to his people**.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) Ephesians 4:7-10

Conclusion:

Knowing the answers or being correct about the things of God isn’t enough!

- **Are you a smart Bible person but treat people poorly?**
- **Have you given up essentials for unity?**
- **Have you answered His Call upon your life to Surrender?**

All Scriptures are from the New International Version unless noted.

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