

# STUDY GUIDE

## The Essential Gospel 03.07.21

### [setting it up]

This week we transition in the book of Ephesians from the indicatives to imperatives, or from what is true to what we should do about it. Chapters four through six give us instructions on how to live our lives in light of the gospel.

Did you grow up in a religious home? If you did, what was emphasized more: doing the right thing or knowing the right thing? Was your experience of faith more of a “cosmic force in the sky” or “a set of rules and regulations?”

### [digging deeper]

Read through Ephesians 4:1-6. How would you describe a life worthy of the gospel?

Can you think of a person that you have known who has lived a life worthy of the gospel? What are some qualities and patterns that marked the life of this person?

Unity is a difficult quality to maintain. We see that in our own country. Why do you think unity is so difficult to maintain? What makes unity hard?

A major emphasis in this section of Scripture is unity within the body of Christ. But there are certainly times not to be united with other believers. Read through the following verses and think through the boundaries of unity. When should we be disunited with other people who associate with Jesus?

1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Peter 2:1; Acts 15:36-41 (a helpful article on this passage: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Paul-and-Barnabas.html>)

Scripture gives us four qualities of a life worthy of the gospel. They are humility and gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love, and an eagerness to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Of these four qualities, which is hardest for you? Which is easiest for you? Why do you think that is?

Go through those four qualities and give an example of how this would look in your day-to-day life. Try to be as specific as you can.

## **[living it out]**

In verse six, the apostle Paul talked about baptism. Baptism is a public expression of the inward reality of our death to our sin and our resurrection in Christ Jesus. The Bible actually commands us to be baptized after we have repented and believed (Acts 2:38). If a believer in Christ has not been baptized, they are actually not obeying what God has commanded them. Some people are often scared to be in front of others, but when someone does not go public with their faith, the entire church misses out on hearing how God has worked in that person's life.

Have you been baptized? Go around the room and ask. If you have not, there is still time to be baptized this Easter! Go to [www.cvconline.org/baptism](http://www.cvconline.org/baptism).

## **[praying it through]**

Spend some time praying through verses five and six. Thank God for these seven qualities that unite his church. Pray that our church will live up to our calling in unity.