

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Sculpted - Part 4

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Introduction

The Apostle Paul writes that as believers, we need to make every effort to be united in the Spirit and to live lives worthy of Jesus. It is not about doing good deeds or ticking boxes. Following what Paul writes in Ephesians 4:2, we see four attitudes that inform how we are to live out our calling:

Humility: seeing and amplifying the best in others.

Gentleness: strength under control.

Patience: being slow to anger.

Forbearance (perseverance): to hold up against a thing and so to bear with it.

As we live out our calling in Jesus, practising these four attitudes helps us to build up family, relationships, church and society.

Read

Ephesians 4:1-10

Discuss

1. How would you picture an ideal society that lives in unity? Name two traits that the main leader would need to have, and two traits for the wider society. Why are these traits important to you?
2. Read Ephesians 4:3. We live in a world that emphasises strength and power. How is it possible to practice the four attitudes above in our world today?
3. What does it mean to see the best in others and amplifying it? What is a difficult season you've had to live through that has kept you humble?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. Why do we need to show strength under control? What are some of the obstacles to doing this? Give an example of someone you have seen who does this well.

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5. How can we exercise patience towards people with conflicting views?
6. Why do we need to make allowance for each other's faults?
7. When have you experienced/witnessed forbearance (perseverance)?
What helped to enable this?

Respond

We do not live in a united world and the reality is that each of us is different. There will be times of disagreement, whether it's with the government, your boss, your Life Group, friends, family, church, etc. When we as Christians encounter this, it is important to remember that we are all works in progress as we seek to live lives worthy of our calling. Which of the four attitudes would you like the power of the Spirit to cultivate in you this week? How might you practice this trait toward others?