March, 26, 2016

Kelvin Kauffeldt

**Our Response to His Call**

**Eph 4:1-16**

What should be our response to the calling we have received?

- “to live a life worthy of it…”

- Paul makes a transition from focusing on doctrine to application (1)

- “If God’s salvation is so good then live like it” Klyne Snodgrass

What does that look like?”

- Paul describes it in the context of how we relate to fellow believers

1. Keep UNITY in the CROSS(hairs) (4-6)

by… being completely humble + gentle (2)

* humility is the most foundational Christian virtue
* starts in the way we think a/b ourselves and others
* imitate the example of Jesus (Phil 2:5-8)

by… being patient, bearing with one another in love (2)

* “have a wide + BIG SOUL” John Chrysostom
* put up with one another in love
* act of our will, founded in having personally experienced God’s love and grace

by… making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace (3)

* be zealous/eager
* no room for being indifferent or lazy

why… because our unity is in the CROSS

-in Christ we share in common…

* one body, one spirit, one hope (4)
* one Lord, one faith, one baptism (5)
* one God + Father (6)

2) Equipped to respond well (7-11)

a) Personally - (7)

-‘grace’ - each of us, enabled by God to contribute to keeping the unity of the Spirit.

-gifts:

* everyone receives at least one gift
* are a reminder of grace - not earned or merited
* distributed according to the sovereign will of Christ

b) Corporately (11)

* apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors/teachers
* role- to equip HIS people for works of service

3) Your response matters (12-16)

So that, (12)

* the body of Christ may be built up
* becoming mature
* reflecting the character of Christ - living lives worthy of the calling we have received.

**Contrast**

Infancy Maturity

tossed about joined and held together

deception speaking truth in love

from humans from Christ

crafty people serving themselves loving people/serving people

Ask God to recover in us a sense of the calling we have received and remember with the gift comes responsibility - to live out the reality of God’s love in community with one another

Key to unity + maturity in the body of Christ

**K** eep UNITY in the CROSS(hairs)

**E** quipped to respond well

**Y** our response matters

“Obedience is the response to grace”