

2018 Bishop's Fall Gathering

Called to Lead

Bible Study

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Bishop Abraham Allende

EPHESIANS 4:1-7, 11-13

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Please be prepared to share your response to the following questions:

1. Read the passage silently several times. Circle which words jump out at you.
2. Underline the number of times the word “one” appears in the passage. Double underline the “one” which is most important to you.
3. What comes to your mind at the mention of the word “*Unity*”?
4. Paul emphasizes *unity of the faith*, and *unity of the Spirit*. How does your work on your church council support either one of these goals?
5. Look at the five gifts that Christ gave. Which gift best describes you and your role on your council?
6. Paul also speaks of “equipping the saints for the work of ministry.”
 - a. What does equip mean to you?
 - b. How does your role on council equip the saints in your congregation?

Brief definitions:

Apostle – One who is sent. God's ambassador, bridge builder.

Prophet – Messenger. One who interprets God's will for the people. Challenges, if need be.

Evangelist – One who shares the Good News.

Pastor – Shepherd. One who protects and nurtures.

Teacher – One who communicates and explains.

To Equip – also has the idea of "to put right." It was used for setting broken bones, and for mending nets.

Bishop's Beliefs

- You are a community of spiritual leaders, essential for the church's unity.
- You are named and claimed, called and empowered with gifts, sent to serve.
- You are the people of God in community, which is more than a coordinating or advisory committee.
- This is a calling; this is vital ministry to which you are called, not just another duty to be fulfilled.
- Your service on council is to be life giving.
- God calls us into mission, gifts us for it, and entrusts us with it.
- It is God's mercy that transforms us and all we are into an offering
- When church councils are revitalized congregations are revitalized
- This is about more than your agenda. It is about working toward God's agenda and to God's glory.
- You are called to worshipful work!