

SERMON NOTES NOVEMBER 23, 2008

Be Who You Are

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Introduction: a lesson from a king to an errant prince...

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Main Idea: Paul transitions from praise to practical Christian behavior. But his view of Christian ethics is firmly placed in the foundation of Christian truth about what unites and enables us to act in God-honoring ways.

Put very simply, links two huge areas of truth... and exhorts the Ephesian Christians to be crystal clear about both. He gives them (and us!)...

I. **Three Commands** – what they are to obey together

- A. Live worthy – seeing with the proper perspective
- B. Live humbly – living with the proper patience
- C. Live passionately – working with the proper persistence

Illustration – Running across the Sahara

II. **Seven Commonalities** – what they have (and are to hold on to) together

- A. The Commonalities of God's character – Who God is
 - 1. One God and Father = God the Father - He is our Master
 - 2. One Lord = Jesus Christ - He is our Mediator, Model, Messenger
 - 3. One Spirit = Holy Spirit - He is Motivator, Means to godliness
- B. The Commonalities of God's construction – What God's work shows
 - 4. One Faith = Salvation
 - 5. One Baptism = One Public display and entry into the Salvation Plan of God
 - 6. One Body = the Church - a visible display of the workings of God
- C. The Commonality of God's connection – What God promises
 - 7. One Hope = Kingdom of God

Another look at the sequence...

Look within – One body & One Spirit

Look backward & forward – One hope, One LORD

Look outward – One faith & One baptism

Look all around – One God and Father - of..., over..., through..., in all

Illustration – reading a “new” magazine – Royalty...

Conclusion
