

June 21, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Eph. 4:2-3 *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (NIV)*

To be completely humble and gentle is to take on the very character of our Lord Jesus. In **Mt. 11:29**, Jesus described taking his yoke upon us. This means walking and living as He did. ***Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (NIV)*** Now this would be impossible in and of ourselves. We don't have the power or ability to walk humbly and gently. Our selfish spirits would not allow this. The only hope for us in this endeavor is to submit ourselves, daily, to the hand of our Master. We must allow His Spirit control over our own desires and directions.

Paul then exhorts us to be patient. So many people in my life have told me that this is the most difficult aspect of living the Christ life. Many have said that they don't even want to pray for patience because they know this will bring testing into their lives. But literally, it brings the opportunity to us, to rely upon the Spirit rather than focusing upon our tendencies and desires.

Now why was Paul so adamant about us keeping the unity? We must work together rather than against each other. Each part of the body of Christ has a place and a purpose. We must humble ourselves and submit completely to the direction of the LORD. He knows what we need, when we need it. And it is when the body works together, that we can then accomplish the purposes of the church. We are to looking out to the fields that are white to harvest; and going and reaping the fruit that is ready.

Dear LORD, help us to get over ourselves. This is not our lives; it is Your life through us that really matters. This is the way others will see Who You are; by the love that we have for one another. In Jesus Name, Amen