Ephesians 4

GIFTS AND GROWTH - 1-16

1-16 - Walking in response to the calling

A turn occurs in this chapter after Paul has focused on saints AND church at the end of chapter 3.

A focus on living this life to which we have been called begins in chapter 4. The "secret" that is revealed is that gentiles are now included in the richness of God's mercy.

it's likely a baptismal creed that was recited at baptism. An early indication of the Trinity professed - One God (who is father of all), One Lord (Jesus) and One Spirit who is our bond of peace.

When you first look at the church, it's a collection of sinners. Yet Paul insists that God works in community with people - like you and me - sinners and works on each of us. You don't have to pass any test to get in. That means that the church is "God's workshop" - it's the place where God works on us. Soul craft is not a "finishing school" for people who are well off. Have no illusions about the Church.

Style of life - six items that describe the way of life that we are to live "in style."

- •humility self forgetfulness tape-i-no-ó this does take practice. If you are paying attention to swinging a bat you can't hit a ball. same with a musical instrument. You have to be absorbed into the practice for it to flow.
- **gentleness** prautes (prah-oo'-tace) also means **meek** strength *internalized*. Jesu
 - patience -
 - •love agape
 - peace irene

Christians meet to confess unity not to create it.

(verse 8-10 - this is a parentheses; an aside, a quote from Psalm 68 with a madrash)

Verse 7 - It's all gift. Christ has given us gifts. Charis is used in this passage a charisma (Romans 12:3-12)

Verse 11 - Christ gives gifts. (He deliberately changed the Psalm text from "receive" gifts to "giving" gifts.

(Pastor - as adjective - "Shepherd teachers")

Peterson says that Paul is being selective by arranging these words by what they have in common not by which they differ.

We are involved in a world of Word and words.

Grow up! The goal is to be *mature*.

TRUTH AND FORGIVENESS - 17-32

Christian ethics begins with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. All moralism - do this and do that - are subjected to the news of what God has done in Christ and is now doing through the Holy Spirit in God's people. It is not another moralism.

17-19 Remember this pattern: Once you were ... but no you are ...

22-24 - put off ... put on

Therefore! ... Act like the people of Christ you are.

"being a Christian means transferring all allegiance from the old order of Adam." It means to live corporately in Christ now as one body.

Baptism is in the background here always. "Become in reality what you professed in your baptism. The difference is captured in the song Animal by Jenny and Johnny:

We must modernize Jerusalem Detonate the temples Let them fight over the dust

We will organize in Bethlehem Able-bodied women And agnostic headstrong men Oh, we'll meet at 10

If you lose your fear of God You are an animal at heart

Show your teeth to everyone Don't let no one prove you wrong You are an animal, an animal, an animal

Show your teeth to everyone Don't let no one prove you wrong You are an animal, an animal, an animal

We must rearrange reality Shuffle all the cards Pair the joker with the queen Just to make her scream

To destroy all our enemies Must investigate our friends Find the ones who don't believe Hang them from the trees

If you lose your fear of God You are an animal at heart

Show your teeth to everyone Don't let no one prove you wrong You are an animal, an animal

Show your teeth to everyone Don't let no one prove you wrong You are an animal, an animal, an animal

Animal Jenny and Johnny