

# 2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

## Life Group Study Guide

High Calling, Humble Attitude

Ephesians 4:1-3

### Review

In the first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul provides a majestic survey of our calling as believers in Christ. Then in the three final chapters, he urges us to live in a way that matches that calling. “I . . . urge you,” he writes, “to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1). We might be surprised at the first word he uses to describe our worthy walk: it is *humility*. Yes, humility is the core attitude of people who have been transformed by God’s grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). And it is the essential ingredient for unity among believers. The central theme of this passage is that *a high calling requires a humble attitude*.

### Introductory Discussion

- When do you find it most difficult to show humility to others?
- Proverbs 13:10 says, “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.” Can you recall a time when your pride led to contention with someone else?

### Our High Calling . . .

The person whose heart has been transformed by the gospel can joyfully and humbly echo the words of Paul: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost” (1 Timothy 1:15). Our high calling humbles us because we didn’t deserve it. Read the following verses and discuss how these truths work to humble us:

- Ephesians 1:3—God’s choice of us from before the foundation of the world
- Ephesians 2:1-3—Our condition before God rescued us
- Ephesians 2:8-9—How we received our salvation
- Ephesians 2:11-13—How far away we were from Christ

### ... Requires a Humble Attitude.

We often misunderstand the true meaning of humility. Humility does *not* mean acting so as to make people *think* you’re humble. It does *not* mean simply thinking poorly of yourself. And it does *not* mean shrugging off your God-given responsibility to lead, instruct, or even confront others. Rather, true humility means **being so focused on God that you see yourself and others in view of his glorious character.**

This means that people who are growing in humility will think about themselves less and less, and think about God and others more and more.

Humility leads the list of attitudes and actions we need to walk worthy of our Christian calling. Discuss why we need humility . . .

- to be gentle with others (4:2a).
- to show patience toward others (4:2b).
- to bear with others in love (4:2c).
- to be diligent to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (4:3)

One astonishing thing about the Christian faith is that it teaches that our God is a *humble* God. Although he “inhabits eternity” and dwells “in the high and holy place,” he also delights to dwell “with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite” (Isaiah 57:15). Even more astonishing is that God humbled himself by becoming a human being. As a human, he lived the perfect life that we couldn’t live because of our sin nature. Then he suffered the sacrificial death to pay for sins he didn’t commit. That’s humility!

- Read Philippians 2:3-11 and John 13:1-17. Discuss the ways Christ showed humility in these passages.
- Imagine that you suddenly had the sort of attitude described in this passage. Describe at least one way this would change . . .
  - The way you treat your family members
  - Your conduct at work
  - Your relationships at church
  - Your attitude toward people who are different from you.