

“Walk Worthy of Your Calling”

“Ephesians”— Part 8

Ephesians 4:1-6

Paul, the master of practical application:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices...
Romans 12:1

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm...
Galatians 5:1 (NAS)

Therefore—Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
Colossians 3:1-2 (NAS)

The theological truths of chapters 1-3:

- Our adoption into God's family (1:4-5)
- The hope of our inheritance (1:11, 18)
- The truth of Christ's glorious rule (1:20-23)
- The riches of God's lavish grace (2:1-10)
- Our unity with God and each other (2:11-3:13)
- The glory of the Lord's incomprehensible love (3:14-21)

The Holy Results of Heavenly Blessings:

(Chapters 4-6)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 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. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

1. The Christian life is a walk and a calling.

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...

Ephesians 4:1 (NASB)

- **A walk:** Don't just talk the talk, walk the walk!
- **A calling:** You have been called by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to do His will! The time has come to apply the truth of our calling to our lives.

2. What does the Christian walk look like? (The signs)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

Humility: a modest or low view of one's own importance; an attitude of the mind where you regard others more important than yourself.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

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.

Matthew 11:29

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

Gentleness: the quality of being kind, tender, or mild-mannered; the outward manifestation of humility.

- Not harsh
- Doesn't fight to get its own way
- Doesn't turn everything into a "winner takes all" competition
- Demonstrates consideration for the needs and feelings of others
- Softens our sharp edges and keeps us from scraping, cutting, and bruising those who get close to us

Patience: the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. Patience means exercising humility and gentleness in the presence of disappointing, frustrating, and downright offensive people.

Tolerance: the ability or willingness to endure something; in particular, the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with.

- Tolerant people reach out with forgiveness.
- Tolerant people reach out with understanding.
- Tolerant people reach out with sympathy.
- Tolerant people treat others with grace.
- Tolerant people let others grow in different ways and at different paces.
- Tolerant people welcome others with a warm embrace because their hearts have been embraced by Christ.

Love: an intense feeling of deep affection. *Agape* love, unconditional love, expects nothing in return. In many ways the previous four virtues describe what real love looks like.

3. What does the Christian walk preserve? (Unity)

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

4. What are the seven pillars of practical unity (seven things all believers share)?

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:4-6

- **One body**—The church

- **One Spirit**—The Holy Spirit who indwells every believer

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.
1 Corinthians 12:4

- **One hope of our calling**—eternal life

...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time...
Titus 1:2

- **One Lord**—Jesus Christ

...there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.
1 Corinthians 8:6

- **One Faith**—The body of essential Christian truths

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 3

- **One baptism**—Indwelling of the Holy Spirit of which water baptism is a symbol. Through baptism we proclaim our identification with Christ. It is an outward sign of an inward reality. Methods may vary, but every true Christian Church practices this essential ordinance.

- **One God and Father of all**—The Godhead

Application: The one thing we share in common is that we are all different. We are not called to uniformity, but unity. You are called to walk worthy of Christ! You are called to walk in unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ. You are called to walk in humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance and love. Ask yourself these hard questions: Am I a gossip? Do I spread rumors? Do I ignore the major truths that unite believers? Do I hold grudges?

**You were called to preserve unity.
It's time to walk your calling!**