

A WORTHY WALK
Ephesians 4:1-6
5/30/10

Ephesians 2:1-10

The dominant theme of Ephesians 1-3 has been about all that God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4-6 moves from who we are in Christ to how we are to live as Christians while we remain here on this earth.

Ephesians 1-3

Our calling

Beliefs

Doctrine

God's grace

Ephesians 4-6

Our conduct

Behaviors

Duties

Our works

1. We should live in a manner worthy of our calling. 4:1

The way we live should be consistent with who we are in Christ.

If we are children of God, we should live like it.

We have seen our calling in Ephesians 1-3

1:3 Blessed with every spiritual blessing

1:4 Chosen before the foundation of the world

1:5 Predestined as sons of God

1:7 Redeemed through Christ's blood

1:7 Completely forgiven

1:8 Lavished with grace

1:11 Given an eternal inheritance

1:13-14 Sealed with the Holy Spirit as a pledge

2:5 Made spiritually alive

2:5-9 Saved by grace

2:6 Raised and seated with Christ

We will rule and reign with Christ through all eternity

We will be eternal exhibits of God's grace and kindness

2:13 Brought near to God

2:18 Given access to God the Father

2:19 Made fellow citizens with the saints

2:19 Made members of God's household

2:21 Made into the temple (dwelling place) of God

2:22 Indwelt by the Holy Spirit

3:6 Made fellow heirs, fellow members of the body

3:6 Made fellow partakers of the promise in Christ

Why should we live lives that are worthy of our calling?

Not to gain salvation (2:8-9), but:

As an expression of gratitude and appreciation to God

Because it is only right that we live our daily lives in a way that is consistent with who we are as children of God

2. A worthy walk is diligent to preserve our unity with other Christians. 4:2-3

We are to work hard at getting along with one another.

This is often difficult.

We all still have fallen sinful natures

We can be selfish and want to have things our way.

We have different personalities, preferences and opinions.

Others may have mannerisms that bug you.

Other Christians may slight you, let you down, or say something that hurts your feelings.

Common reactions when differences arise include church splits, leaving and going to another church, or completely withdrawing and not going to any church.

God is calling on us to put aside our selfishness, hurts, and pettiness and to work together in peace.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

3. Unity requires that we show tolerance of one another. 4:2-3

a. Tolerance means that we are to bear with one another.

We are not to simply maintain a façade or appearance of unity.

We are to genuinely love one another and bear with fellow Christians who irritate, hurt, and embarrass us.

We are to stick it out with those who let us down.

We are to make allowance for one another's faults and failures

This doesn't mean that we are not to ignore sin. (Matthew 18:15-18)

We are to hate sin, but love the sinner.

God wants us to bear with one another as we grow together in unity.

b. Tolerance requires humility.

We tend to think highly our opinions

We often think that our way is the best and that other people's ideas are dumb.

We get upset when others disregard us or do not take us seriously.

Our pride is easily wounded and we can get our feelings hurt.

Yet God wants us to respond with humility and not react in pride.

God wants us to be willing to humbly defer to others in areas that are not Biblical issues.

Philippians 2:3-8 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

c. Tolerance requires gentleness.

The kind of life that is consistent with our calling treats others with gentleness, even as God has treated us.

Gentleness includes kindness, courtesy, consideration, and thoughtfulness.

We are not to treat others harshly

Gentleness does not retaliate when others hurt us.

Gentleness does not mean weakness.

Gentleness is strength under control

A tamed horse still has its strength, but it is under the control of its rider

We are to let Jesus control our lives rather than our feelings.

d. Tolerance requires patience.

Some of us can be quick-tempered and impatient with people.

God wants us to be longsuffering.

Patience also means that we are willing to accept God's plan for everything that happens in our lives without questioning or complaining.

Remember that God is still working to change you and others.

"Please be patient, God is not finished with me yet."

If we are to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, you and I must diligently seek to preserve unity with God's people.

4. We should walk in unity because we are one. 4:4-6

One body

The church is called Christ's body here on earth

Christ's church is comprised of all who are genuine Christians.

We are all one body in spite of differences in race, color, nationality, culture, language, and temperament.

The fact that every Christian is a member one body does not excuse any of us from belonging to a local church.

It is in a local church that each of us is to exercise our spiritual gifts and help others grow.

All of us are a part of that one body

Therefore it is important that we walk together in unity

One Spirit

The same Holy Spirit indwells each and every believer

The Holy Spirit is at work in all of us

One hope of our calling

All of us are looking for the return of our Lord to take us home with Him.

We all have the same hope and destiny

One Lord

We have the same Lord who died for us, lives for us, and one day will come for us.

One faith

Faith here does not refer to your personal subjective faith, it refers the truths handed down to us by God in the Scriptures.

Jude 1:3 . . . I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

True Christians are united around a common faith.

Many people today are saying, "Let's forget about doctrine and just united together in love."

Yet first three chapters of Ephesians give us the content of our faith.

The truths that we are all believe in and trust in.

God is concerned that we not break the unity of the Spirit by agreeing with those who are false teachers.

Romans 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. ¹⁸ For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

Genuine Christians are united around one common faith.

One baptism

This is most likely speaking of the baptism of the Holy Spirit that unites us together in the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

One God and Father of all

He is over all

He is the supreme Sovereign of the universe

He is through all

He works through all things to accomplish His purposes

He is in all

He dwells in all believers and is present in all places at the same time.

If we are to walk worthy of the calling with which we have been called, we must be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

a. Seek to restore any broken relationships.

Matthew 5:23-24 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

b. Ask forgiveness if you have wronged someone.

Restore anything that needs to be repaid.

c. Bear with one another.

Be humble, gentle, patient