

Missio Dei Fellowship

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ*

Walk In A Manner Worthy Of Your Calling

Ephesians 4:1-6

Keywords: Paul, Ephesians, walk, unity, calling

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

Sermon Audio Blurb: Paul implores the Ephesian church to walk in a manner worthy of their calling. With this in mind, we look at what that calling is, how we are to walk in a manner worthy of that calling, and why we are to walk in this manner.

I. Introduction

A. Overview of Ephesians

- i. It is a Pauline epistle (letter)
- ii. The gospel was brought to the Ephesians by Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:19-20)
- iii. This letter is considered by scholars to be encyclical (intended to be circulated amongst the churches of Asia Minor) and was sent first to the believers in Ephesus.
- iv. Two part letter
 1. One part theology (Chapters 1-3)
 - a. Paul emphasizes New Testament doctrine
 - i. Predestination in Christ (Eph. 1:3-6a)

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love **He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace...”
 - ii. Redemption in Christ (Eph. 1:7-8a)

“**In Him we have redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.”

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iii. Inheritance in Christ (Eph. 1:11 & 1:13b-14)

“**In Him also we have obtained an inheritance**, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will...

having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, **who is given as a pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.”

iv. New Life in Christ (Eph. 2:4-5)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved).”

v. Unity in Christ (2:19-20)

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, **but you are fellow citizens with the saints**, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,”

vi. God's fullness for the church (Eph. 3:17-19)

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints **what is the breadth and length and height and depth**, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, **that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God**.”

2. One part practicality (Chapters 4-6)

a. God's plan for faithful living (Eph. 4:1-6)

b. Christ endows and builds the church (Eph. 4:7-16)

c. God's principles for members of the church (Eph. 4:17-32)

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- d. God's standards for faithfulness in the church (Eph. 5:1-21)
 - e. God's standards for authority and submission in the church (Eph. 5:22-6:9)
 - f. God's provision for spiritual battles (Eph. 6:10-17)
 - g. God's appeal for prayer in the church (Eph. 6:18-20)
 - h. Basically, what they must be and do as Christians
 - v. Chapter 4 is the turning point within the letter between these two themes
- II. Paul makes the plea to walk in a manner worthy of the calling in which they were called
- A. Why is he making this?
 - i. He is transitioning from focusing on who they are in Christ
 - ii. To what they must be and do
 - B. What is this plea? 3 key words:
 - i. Implore
 - ii. Walk
 - iii. Worthy
 - C. "Implore" (Other translations: urge, beseech)
 - i. It is an impassioned and emotional direct command
 - ii. It is the same emotion in this passage - Paul is not asking, he is telling them they must do this!
 - D. "Walk" – To live
 - i. Literally translated: to make one's way or to make due use of opportunities in life
 - ii. Paul wanted this applied to every aspect of their lives and in every season of life
 - 1. Jew or Gentile
 - 2. Older or newer believer

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3. No matter who they were or what they're standing in life, they must walk in this manner.
4. In fact, Paul was a prisoner under house arrest and was urging them to live the way he was

E. "Worthy"

- i. Greek word "ox-zeos" which means "in a worthy manner (axiom - of equal weight)
 1. Equation: axiom indicates doing something to each side so that it remains true
- ii. Paul is saying that they should live lives equal to the great blessings described in chapters 1-3

F. These 3 key words help us to see what Paul's urging was

- i. Impassioned
- ii. In all aspects of life
- iii. In a worthy manner

III. But what is this calling Paul refers to?

A. First, it is simply that they have been called

- i. The Holy Spirit's regenerating work that caused them to believe
 1. They have been redeemed in Christ
 2. They have been given new life
 3. They have gained an inheritance in the kingdom
 4. They are one with Christ
- ii. They have been called

B. Secondly, they have been called to a calling itself

- i. Because of the Holy Spirit's call they must now live out their **calling** before man and God

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C. This is Paul's point that he is stressing in verse 1:

Walk in a manner worthy of that gift!

- i. Eyes illumined to that gift
- ii. Hearts awakened to that gift
- iii. Life reborn and eternal
- iv. A determination to live by this command

IV. So how does Paul tell us we can walk in a worthy manner?

A. In verses 2-3, Paul gives the Ephesians 5 ways in which they can walk in this manner

B. In all humility

- i. A heart attitude that did not seek to exalt one's self
- ii. A heart attitude that exalted the Lord their God

C. Gentleness

- i. Better translated as meekness
- ii. Defined as power under control

D. With Patience

- i. Implies longsuffering
- ii. Implies enduring in a determined way

E. Showing tolerance for one another in love (Colossians 3:13)

- i. Bearing with one another
- ii. Forgiving one another
- iii. In the spirit of love – holding no resentment towards each other

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- F. Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
 - i. Being diligent: Doing their utmost
(present active participle – hastening or exerting oneself with great diligence)
 - 1. Unity ***of*** the Spirit: Imparted by the Holy Spirit
 - 2. In the bond ***of*** peace: keyword again is “of”, unity is promoted by peace itself
 - ii. Paul is not describing what they must try and create, but what they have already been given and must protect.
 - 1. They have been given unity by the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Their walk is to diligently preserve it in the bond of peace.
 - iii. Paul is commanding the Ephesians to walk in a manner worthy of their calling
- G. Preserving the unity of the Spirit is a point of great seriousness for our Lord.
 - i. It is something that He speaks about multiple times and it is of great importance to Him.
 - ii. He instructed His disciples in to preserve the unity of the Spirit (John 13:34-35)
 - iii. Even at the point of His death He was seeking unity (John 17:20-23)
 - iv. So how do we preserve the unity of the Spirit?
 - 1. It is not “keeping the peace” necessarily
 - 2. We should constantly be looking to preserve unity in a proactive manner, not reactive.
 - a. This means being involved in one another’s lives. (Community Groups)
 - b. It means getting past pleasantries and seeking to know one another
 - c. It means being willing to say the loving yet hard things to someone who is straying. **FOR THE SAKE OF UNITY!**
 - d. It means dealing boldly with factious people. **FOR THE SAKE OF UNITY!**

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- a. I think we must also expect this of each other
 - i. In order to have a proper expectation of each other we must model this for each other
 - 1. In exaltation of the triune God who:
 - a. Died for our sins
 - b. Awakened our souls to saving grace
 - c. By adopting us as sons and daughters, gave us our calling
 - d. **So walk in a manner that exalts God!!!**

II. **Why** must we walk in a manner worthy of our calling?

- a. Paul gives us 7 reasons why we must walk in a manner worthy of our calling.
(vss. 4-6)
 - i. One body
 - ii. One Spirit
 - iii. We are called in the hope of our calling
 - iv. One Lord
 - v. One faith
 - vi. One baptism
 - vii. One God and Father who is over all and through all and in all.
- b. It is not enough for Paul to tell them to walk in a worthy manner and then explain how to do that. No, he also tells them why.

III. I think it is no accident that the Holy Spirit guided Paul to write Ephesians 4:1-6 in the way Paul did.

- a. They could've obeyed Paul because he told them to.

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- b. Or they could obey Paul because he provided them instruction on how to accomplish their goal.
 - c. But I think that by understanding why they are to walk in a worthy manner, they should be properly motivated to obey Paul's command in a God honoring way.
 - d. A very Trinitarian passage with a logical flow
 - i. We see the work of the Holy Spirit:
 - 1. One body
 - 2. One hope of their calling
 - ii. Second, we see Christ who:
 - 1. Creates one faith.
 - 2. Because of that one faith, believers all participate in one baptism.
 - iii. Third, we see the first person of the Trinity, God the Father, who is:
 - 1. Over all
 - 2. Through all
 - 3. In all
- IV. Let's look more in depth at verses 4-6 and the work of the Spirit in bringing unity to believers.
- a. You will see that this is a common theme in the New Testament.
 - b. There is One Body - What is meant by "One body"? (v. 4)
 - i. This is the church universal – all believers
 - ii. And we are brought into this one body by the One Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12)
 - iii. And the Holy Spirit also calls believers to their calling
 - 1. It is this calling that gives us hope.
 - 2. This is the gospel and its subsequent promises!
 - a. Ephesians 1:18

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iv. The hope of our calling is the inheritance in the saints

1. Our inheritance is this: the Spirit has called us, given us our calling, and our hope is in what results by walking in a manner worthy of that calling.

i. Glorification upon the return of Christ, freedom from sin and death, together in the presence of God!

v. Paul also explains this well in Romans 8:18-25

vi. Peter also speaks to this in 1 Peter 1:13

vii. As Christians we all hope in Christ's return and the glory that awaits us!

c. Next we see Christ and His work in administering unity. (v. 5)

i. There is One Lord

1. Ephesians 1:22-23

2. Colossians 1:18

ii. The One Lord gives us One Faith

d. The Lord provides us One Baptism (v. 5)

i. Christ is the source of a believer's faith and because of this they get to participate in one baptism.

V. We see that there is One God and Father and His work in unity. (v. 6)

a. He is over all, He is through all, and He is in all.

b. As believers we do not serve a God who is remote and uninvolved in our lives.

c. He is actively involved in the lives of His people even before they are born.
(Romans 8:28-29)

d. He loved us before we loved Him (1 John 4:7-11)

e. The Father is the center of our faith, who we seek to bring glory to.

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- f. John MacArthur describes this best, in his study of Ephesians:

“We are God created, God loved, God saved, God Fathered, God controlled, God sustained, God filled, and God blessed. We are one people under one sovereign (over all), omnipotent (through all), and omnipresent (in all) God.”
(MacArthur, Ephesians)

- VI. We can see the unity of the Trinity in the unity that we have been given.
- a. Unique roles in bringing, administering, and working throughout this unity
 - b. The Trinity has complete unity in giving us unity
 - c. The church’s unity is a mirror of the unity of the Trinity

VII. Conclusion

- a. The main point of this passage is to preserve the unity of the Spirit.
 - i. We all need to walk in unity and remind each other of the how and why.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:1-6 serves us well as persevering in this manner.
 - ii. Secondly, we must reject those who choose not to seek to preserve the unity of the Spirit. Otherwise known as people who are factious.
 - 1. Paul has a low view of those who do not seek to preserve unity.
 - a. Romans 16:17-18
 - b. Titus 3:9-11

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- iii. Therefore, we must be diligent to protect the unity of our church.
 1. Look to what we've been given to encourage and spur us on to preserve the unity of the Spirit.
 - a. Live out Hebrews 12:28, "Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe."
 2. We've been called in one body, given faith, and given hope
 3. We've personally also been called to this calling.
Serve Him well by walking in a worthy manner!

Community Group Questions

- **Does this passage clearly spur you on to walk in a manner worthy of your calling? If so, how?**
- **How do you seek to live out the 5 ways in which you can walk in a worthy manner?**
- **In what ways can the members of your group encourage and implore you to walk in a manner worthy of your calling?**
- **Does Paul's explanation of why we must walk in this manner spur you on to be more diligent in your walk? If so, how?**