

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"Walking Worthy"
Ephesians 4:1-3
Study-11

Ephesians 4:1 – "Therefore I," – When we see the **"therefore,"** we should ask **"what is the 'therefore' there for?"**

We arrive at the 2nd section of the Epistle of the **Ephesians**. Which is practical, or duty. We have spent 3 chapters dealing with **"Doctrine"** as to who we are in Christ; as to what God has done for us.

Now the next half is practical; on how to live out this new life in Christ. **Ephesians 1-3, the key word was Wealth, now in Ephesians 4-6, the key word is Walk.**

Paul did not start with "duty" but with "doctrine." Jesus in **"The Sermon On The Mount"** started with the Beatitudes, not the Do-attitudes. Jesus emphasized "being" in order to be a doer, **Matthew 5:3-12 – BEATITUDES**.

Break down of the rest of the book.

1. **Ephesians 4:1-16** – Walking in Unity: By the power of God.
2. **Ephesians 4:17-5:17** – Walking in Purity.
3. **Ephesians 5:18-6:9** – Walking in Harmony.
4. **Ephesians 6:10-24** – Walking in Victory.

Thought Of The Passage: "Being In Christ Produces A Balanced Life Which Reflects Christ And Maintains Unity And Peace."

We will look at 3 areas this evening:

- 1. Verse 1 – Call To A Worthy Walk**
- 2. Verse 2 – Character Of The Worthy Walk**
- 3. Verse 3 – Persistence Of The Worthy Walk**

1. Verse 1 – Call To A Worthy Walk:

Ephesians 4:1 – "Therefore I," – Paul now makes the transition from "Creed" to Conduct, Wealth to Walk, Doctrine to Duty." "Therefore" refers to the 3 previous chapters of doctrine.

Romans 1-11 – Paul lays out systematically our great salvation. Paul then comes to Romans 12:1; Romans 12-16, practical.

Galatians 1-4 – Doctrinal; then 5-6, Practical; Galatians 5:1.

Philippians 1 lays out the doctrinal teaching, then in Philippians 2-4, Living, Philippians 2:1.

Colossians 1-2 – Doctrine; then in 3-4, practical; Colossians 3:5.

1 Thessalonians 1-3 – Doctrine; then 4-5, Duty; 1 Thessalonians 4:1.

“Anyone that sets aside sound Christian doctrine also sets aside sound Christian living.”

Paul moves from Exposition to Exhortation; from what God has done to what we must do.

“the prisoner of the Lord,” – He was a prisoner of the Lord. Paul realized that “Lord” meant master, that it was all part of God’s plan.

“implore you” – “to call to one’s side, to beg, entreat, to strive to appease by entreaty, instruct, teach.” Paul is begging the Christians.

“to walk” – 7X in Ephesians; Walk – “to make one’s way, progress, to make due use of opportunities.” It is the lifestyle of the person.

“in a manner worthy” – Worthy – “to be of equal weight, to make equal, to weigh the same.”

“the calling with which you have been called,” – the K.J.V. uses the word “vocation” which in our day has the idea of a person choosing a job or occupation, but not the sense here. “called” – “the divine invitation to embrace salvation in the kingdom of God.”

2. Verse 2 – Character Of The Worthy Walk:

Ephesians 4:2

Paul gives 4 characteristics of character, needed for unity:

- 1. “with all humility”** – It is a compound word, “to think” or “judge” with “lowliness;” “humbleness of mind, humility of mind, having a humble opinion of one’s self, a deep sense of one’s (moral) littleness, modesty.”

This word “humility” was hated by the Greeks and Romans, they linked it to, “a crouching submissive slave.”

"Humility" is the opposite of pride. Humility and pride are mutually exclusive; if you think you have "Humility" you just lost it.

Matthew 5:3; Ephesians 2:8-9

Pride is competing with God, humility is submitting to God.

2. **"gentleness,"** – This follows humility; that you are not looking to self.

"gentleness" – mildness, but not weak, subservient, trusting attitude toward God. It's the idea of a wild animal that has been domesticated, that has learned to accept the control of its master, great strength under restraint! Properly behaved.

It's used to describe a soothing medicine; it's used in referring to "gentle breezes" which are cool, as opposed to a hurricanes, which kill.

3. **"patience,"** – This is the outgrowth of humility, and gentleness; long-suffering, endurance, steadfastness, perseverance, slowness in avenging wrongs.

Romans 5:3-4

4. **"showing tolerance"** – Humility gives way to gentleness, then patience, then forbearance; "suffer – bear with – endure, to hold up, to sustain, to bear, to endure."

"Agape" – "Love" – "divine love, spiritual, plane – seeking the highest good of the object that is love. Experienced only by believers. Not based on performance, or true worth, but a love that is a deliberate choice. Not an emotion – it is motion – It is an ongoing commitment not dependent upon treatment received – or reaction of others."

3. Verse 3 – Persistence Of The Worthy Walk:

Ephesians 4:3 – "being diligent" – "eager to spare nothing, to give all, to exert oneself, effort."

"to preserve the unity of the Spirit," – Notice that it does not say "to make the unity of the Spirit!" It already exists by God's own doing. This is "Doctrine," "truth."

“preserve” – keep; to guard what we already have. We are to be watchful. This is the experiential side of Christianity; our part to live out.

“unity of the Spirit” – Ephesians 4:4

1 Corinthians 12:13

“in the bond” – that which binds together, a band, bond: of ligaments by which the members of the human body are united together, that which is bound together, a bundle.

Romans 8:5-8

Isaiah 48:22

Peacemakers are honest.

Peacemakers are willing to risk pain.

Peacemaker is a fighter, Romans 12:18.

1 John 1:3

Application:

1. Call To A Worthy Walk – God Calls Us To A Life Of Balance, Which Is The Balancing Of Who We Are In Christ To Who We Are In Practice.
2. Character Of The Worthy Walk – Being In Christ Is A Calling With Character; All Humility And Gentleness, With Patience, Showing Tolerance For One Another In Love.
3. Persistence Of The Worthy Walk – To Preserve Is To Guard What We Already Have Through The Unity Of The Spirit In The Bond Of Peace.