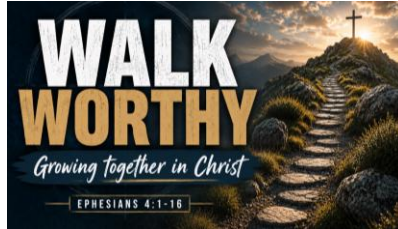


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 4:1-16 – Growing together in Christ

Today’s Message:

“Walk Worthy”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, Paul ended the doctrinal portion of his letter with God’s limitless power and eternal glory. Today, we have come to a turning point in the Ephesian letter. Now that we have begun to comprehend all that we have in Christ, we will turn our focus to how we as believers ought to live. Doctrine must now be put into practice. We move from how we are seated to how we must walk worthy of our calling in Christ Jesus. God did not save you merely to attend church... but to grow, serve, and strengthen one another in unity. A worthy Christian life is seen when believers preserve unity, serve through their God-given gifts, and mature together to become more like Jesus Christ. This is God’s message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ **The Text** **Ephesians 4:1-16**

A. Our Unity – We must walk worthy together in love.

1. We are unified by what we **BELIEVE** and possess in Jesus Christ.

Therefore
 Because of chapters 1-3, you must now walk accordingly.

The Vocation
 Christianity is not merely:
 Intellectual beliefs
 Church attendance
 Emotional experiences
 It is a transformed way of life!

The Devil says
 Avoid truth to unify.
God says
 We are united because of the truth!

- **Ephesians 4:1** – *I therefore... beseech you that ye walk worthy... the vocation...*
- **Ephesians 4:2** – *With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing*
- **Ephesians 4:3** – *Endeavouring to KEEP the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
- **Ephesians 4:4** – *There is one body... one Spirit...one hope of your calling.*
- **Ephesians 4:5** – *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*
- **Ephesians 4:6** – *One God and Father of all, who is above all... through... in you all.*

“Walk worthy...the vocation” – balance daily conduct with immense calling; occupation.
 “Endeavouring to keep the unity” – already created by the Spirit; must be **PROTECTED**.

The Character of Unity

- **Lowliness.** Humility; not pride, not demanding **Mt 11:29** – ... lowly in heart
- **Meekness.** Strength under control; not weakness **Mt 11:29** – ... I am meek
- **Longsuffering.** Enduring difficult people, circumstances **Gal 5:22** – fruit of the Spirit
- **Forbearing.** Putting up with imperfections graciously **Col 3:13** – ... one another

Seven Ones

- *One body* (church), *one Spirit* (Holy Spirit), *one hope* (future with Christ), *one Lord* (Jesus), *one faith* (body of truth), *one baptism* (spiritual), *one God and Father* (God)

“Endeavouring to KEEP the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Our unity exists because God has already made us one in Jesus Christ. It is based on what we possess in Christ, what we believe together, and who God is – not personalities, preferences, politics, traditions, or culture. We already share the deepest realities possible in Christ – now we must live like it! Amen.

B. Our Gifts – We must serve one another according to grace received.

2. God has given every Christian at least one **GIFT** to use to help the body of Christ.

Spiritual Gifts
3 lists of gifts in NT:
Romans 12:3-8
1 Corinth 12:4-11; 27-31
Ephesians 4:11

Spiritual Enablement
Every believer has:
Purpose
Usefulness
Stewardship

Ephesians 2:20
And are built upon
the **foundation** of the
apostles and
prophets, Jesus Christ
himself being **THE**
CHIEF corner stone;

- **Ephesians 4:7** – But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
- **Ephesians 4:8** – Wherefore he saith... and **gave gifts unto men**.
- **Ephesians 4:9** – (Now that he ascended... descended... lower parts of the earth?)
- **Ephesians 4:10** – He that descended... ascended up far above all heavens...
- **Ephesians 4:11** – And **he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets;**
and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

“Grace given according to the measure” – this is **SERVING** grace; spiritual enablement
“Gave gifts... ascended... descended” – Christ is the victor! Ascended, gave gifts to US!

Leadership Gifts

- **Apostles.** Foundational eyewitness; sent forth ones (*Acts 1:21-22 – part of this ministry*)
- **Prophets.** God’s revealed truth in the early church (*Acts 20:27 – all the counsel of God*)
- **Evangelists.** Gospel proclaimers; all called to do the “work of an evangelist”
- **Pastors and Teachers.** Shepherds feeding, guiding, and equipping the church!

Practical Application

- God’s leaders are to equip the saints to do the **WORK of the ministry!** Amen.
- All Christians are in **full-time** vocational ministry! (*Your job is to support God’s work!*)

C. Our Maturity – we must grow together into Christlikeness for His glory.

3. God’s goal for every Christian is **MATURITY** – not merely attendance or religion.

- **Ephesians 4:12** – For the perfecting of the saints, [Training for ministry]
for the work of the ministry, [Multiplying disciples]
for the edifying of the body of Christ: [Growing together]
- **Ephesians 4:13** – Till we all come in the unity of the faith,
and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **PERFECT** man,
unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

- **Ephesians 4:14** – That we henceforth be **no more children** tossed to and fro...
- **Ephesians 4:15** – But **speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him**... Christ:
- **Ephesians 4:16** – ... **whole body fitly joined together... edifying of ITSELF in love**.

“Perfecting... **work**... edifying” – God’s gifts are to help His church so that all will benefit!
“Till we **all** come...unto a **perfect man**” – none left behind; Christlike: able to glorify God!

Three Goals of Maturity

- **Stability.** “no more children” – immature believers are easily deceived, unstable.
- **Truth and Love.** “speaking the truth in love” – biblical maturity has both.
- **Growth in Christ.** Becoming more like Christ – our pattern and the **GOAL**.

“Till we all come... unto a perfect man...the fulness of Christ.”

Unity – Do you create peace and harmony in your life and church or tension?

Gifts – Are you using your gifts? Where are you serving? Are you helping the body?

Maturity – Are you growing spiritually? Stable? Speaking truth in love? More like Christ?

Body Illustration
Every member matters.
The church grows when...
Every joint supplies
Every part functions
Every believer participates

Walking Worthy
Humility
Patience
Unity
Serving
Maturity
Truth in love
Edifying others

Walking Unworthy
Pride
Impatience
Division
Consuming
Immaturity
Harsh/Compromise
Discouraging others

NEW TESTAMENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Every believer is called to be like Jesus Christ and to minister and serve one another. The Holy Spirit uniquely enables believers in certain areas for the strengthening of the body.

All believers must...

Show mercy, serve, exhort, give, teach their children, evangelize, help others, etc.

But some believers are uniquely...

Equipped, effective, fruitful, burdened, and Spiritually empowered in particular areas.

Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament

Romans 12:3-8

Prophecy: Declaring and proclaiming God's truth boldly and accurately.

Ministry / Serving: Faithfully meeting practical needs in the church.

Teaching: Explaining and applying the Word of God clearly.

Exhortation: Encouraging believers toward obedience and faithfulness.

Giving: Supplying needs sacrificially with a right heart.

Ruling / Leadership: Guiding and overseeing others wisely in spiritual matters.

Mercy: Showing compassionate care toward the hurting or weak.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 27-31

Word of Wisdom: Applying biblical truth wisely in difficult situations.

Word of Knowledge: Understanding and communicating biblical truth.

Faith: Special confidence in God during difficult circumstances.

Gifts of Healing: Temporary apostolic sign gifts authenticating the early church message.

Working of Miracles: Temporary supernatural sign gifts demonstrating divine authority.

Prophecy: Declaring God's revealed truth before the New Testament was complete.

Discerning of Spirits: Recognizing truth from error and false spiritual influences.

Divers Kinds of Tongues: Temporary sign gift of speaking real human languages unknown to the speaker.

Interpretation of Tongues: Ability to translate tongues for church understanding.

Apostles: Men directly commissioned by Christ to establish the early church.

Helps: Assisting and strengthening others in practical ministry.

Governments / Administration: Organizing and directing ministry effectively.

Teachers: Instructing believers accurately in Scripture.

Ephesians 4:11

Apostles: Foundational men commissioned by Christ to establish the early church.

Prophets: Men used by God to deliver inspired revelation before Scripture was completed.

Evangelists: Preachers gifted to proclaim the gospel and win souls to Christ.

Pastors: Shepherds called to oversee, feed, and guide a local church.

Teachers: Believers gifted to explain and apply Scripture for spiritual maturity.

Important Note: Apostles, prophets, tongues, miracles, and healing sign gifts were foundational and temporary, authenticating the apostolic message before the completion of the New Testament canon (1 Corinthians 13:8-10; Ephesians 2:20; Hebrews 2:3-4).

2026 VISION: *Growth through Discipleship!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

Example: Mercy

All Christians must show mercy (Luke 6:36).
However, some believers possess a special gift of mercy:
Notice hurting people
Move toward those suffering
Comfort effectively
Consistently strengthen the body emotionally and spiritually.

Example: Giving

All Christians should give to the Lord and His work (2 Cor 9:7).
However, some believers are specially gifted:
To supply needs
Steward resources
Give generously and joyfully in ways more than others.

Example: Evangelism

All Christians should be a witness for Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15).
However, some believers possess:
Extra effectiveness
Boldness and clarity
Fruitfulness in gospel ministry and personal work.

Spiritual gifts are not exemptions from obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

A believer cannot say:
“I do not have the gift of mercy, so I do not help people and show compassion.”
“I do not have the gift of evangelism, so I do not witness to anyone.”
“I do not have the gift of service, so I do not serve.”

Spiritual gifts are given for empowerment beyond normal obligation.

A Helpful Distinction

Christian virtues are universal.
Spiritual gifts are distributed.

All believers should possess love, mercy, kindness, faithfulness, service, generosity, etc.
However, spiritual gifts reflect differing emphasis, differing effectiveness, differing roles in the body.

**The Holy Spirit does not call every believer to the same function,
but He does call every believer to faithful ministry.**

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