

## REVIVE CHURCH- WALK WORTHY

### EPHESIANS SERIES #13

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***Ephesians 4:1-6** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

**Eph. 4:1** -I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

**In Ephesians Chapters 1-3 Paul has explained to the believer that God has given us all provision through Jesus Christ for the church.** Paul's desire, inspired by the Holy Spirit is to bring the Ephesian believers/us to the realization that God has empowered the church to establish the kingdom of God.

The word *therefore* is pointing us back to the Paul's detailed argument concerning God's enthronement of Jesus Christ in the spiritual realm above all things and the believers place in Christ at the right hand of the Father. **These things are already accomplished**, and people can embrace their reality by faith in Christ.

The word *beseech* highlights the importance of Paul's exhortation. It is not a simple request but a strong urging or begging of the believers to take stock of the truth in the first three Chapters and to then live in a manner that embraces all that God has done.

- **Beseech is the same word Paul uses in Romans 12.**
- ***Romans 12:1**- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*
- **We witness the same pattern in Romans 12 as we see in Ephesians 4-Based upon everything that God has done for us, we have an obligation to live fully for Him.**

**Ephesians 4 begins with the responsibility of the believer who has accepted the finished work of Christ.**

**Verse 1 serves as the pivot point for the rest of Ephesians.** In the first three chapters, Paul writes about the believers calling, and in the last three he writes about their walk. **God calls believers to walk in a worthy fashion.** *The church should live in a manner that is consistent with the provisions made in Christ and consistent with the truths of the heavenly realms where Christ reigns supreme and the church is given power over all evil.*

**Romans 6:11-14** (NKJV) *11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

**What does it look like for the believer to walk in a worthy fashion?**

**Eph. 4:2-3** *with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

**Christianity is a walk, it is a journey.** *It has a beginning point when we are born again, points of emphasis and encounter but it is a walk that does not end, not a past tense decision. You used to walk in the ways of the world, and now you are moving, walking in totally different direction because you are following the Good Shepherd.*

Paul did not exhort the believers to act with an offensive boldness and a posture of arrogance and authority because of their newfound knowledge of what is true in the heavenly realms. There was not to be a superiority complex! *That is how the world's authority responds.*

**Paul intentionally communicates attributes that walk in the opposite direction of the people who have power and influence.** He goes on to list six attributes that originate from the Holy Spirit, four of which are fruits of the Holy Spirit.

1. Lowliness or humility
2. Gentleness or meekness
3. Longsuffering or patience
4. Love-agape
5. Peace
6. Unity of the Spirit

**Fruit-** Within the seed contains the future plant, it has all of the potential contained in a tiny seed. Acorn's have the potential of an oak tree within. So these fruits are produced by the power of the Holy Spirit. They are attributes of God himself that grow in us as we mature. **That which originates with God is now able to grow in this fertile soil that He has planted His seed in.** These 6 attributes that God expects from us actually show us exactly what Jesus modeled and how He responds to us. Christ exhibited perfectly all of the attributes listed.

1. **Lowliness** means **lowliness of mind or humility**. *There is no attitude of superiority when people are lowly of mind.* Jesus did not walk this world with arrogance and pride. He was pleased to empty Himself and take the form of a man, becoming a servant. *What humility; He came lowly. The divine King maker of heaven and earth, the omniscient One came to serve.* The Greek had no word for humility, they believe anything resembling humility was weak. Before Jesus came upon the scene humility was looked upon as cowering and ignoble yet our King led in humility and expects we will do the same. This is a deep sense of one's littleness in comparison to God's glory.
1. The second word **gentleness or meekness** *points to a strong person's control.* There is no weakness associated with this word. People of truly great power are in such control of their power that they can serve without relying on such power. The spirit of gentleness is how Jesus dealt with people on a regular basis and carries great power against the forces of darkness. **Philippians 4:5** tells us that we are to let our gentleness be evident to all! The same Greek word *Praus* is used to describe the animal that has been trained and domesticated and is completely under the control of their master. **The Christian is seeking to yield to God in such a way that we are fully directed by Jesus.**
1. **Longsuffering** is the third and it has **been translated by some as long term patience**. This gives us a much different look at patience that what we usually consider. **We are to exercise the same patience that God has toward the ungodly, or to look at it from a different angle, the same patience God had with you when you were living in complete rebellion.** This kind of patience is meant to lead people to repentance. **Romans 2:4-** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?
1. **Bearing with one another in love** is closely related to longsuffering. **The attitude of the believer toward another believer is one of unconditional agape love.** If our love is truly unconditional then we can continually bear with difficult people. The church is purposed to be unique and different from the world in that we are a Jesus centered people who handle relationships in the same way that He has treated us. **Agape is able to be given only when it has been received by God into our lives.** It is impossible to have agape apart from Christ love. **It requires nothing in return from the individual you are loving it is based solely on the love we have received from Jesus.**
1. **Keep the unity of the Spirit.** **The unity of the Spirit, is a work of God and points to the reality that He is the author and provider of unity between believers.** Though it is His work it requires our cooperation and willingness to do whatever it takes to abide in unity with one another. **We are bound together, to accomplish something that is less about our**

own personal ambition, and more about the church accomplishing something miraculous together,

1. **The sixth and final attribute is peace.** The bond that keeps us together is the peace of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Prince of peace, the Father is called the God of all peace, and His people are known as the ones who are bound together, yoked with one another in this peace.

*Eph 4:4-5 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

**We are called as the body of Christ to have an emphasis not on what divides the church or make us different or special than other believers but what makes us one.** Every Christian is part of one body and this constitutes the hope of our calling. Every believer looks only to the one Lord Jesus Christ for hope. We are all baptized in water because of this hope. There is only one God and Father of all, who is above all, through all and in us all.

**Godliness is living the way God wants us to live.** Paul has described what this is to look like as the body walks their faith out. We are saved and filled with the Holy Spirit in order that we would follow in the footsteps of Jesus as we walk. This isn't behavior modification but Holy Spirit empowerment. Godliness looks like someone, it takes on the person of Jesus. Paul described Godly behavior that is modeled after Jesus Christ. How will the world identify Him in the church if we don't live like He did.

**Your conduct is the most effective message you will every speak. We should live lives that are consistent and undeniable evidence of the truth of the Gospel and the power of a redeemed life.**

**Boil this down!**

**Genesis 32:24-31** (NKJV) 24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. 25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. 26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" 27 So He said to him, "What [is] your name?" He said, "Jacob." 28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell [me] Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why [is] it [that] you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. 30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." 31 Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

**When we encounter the living God it is meant to bring an end to our old nature and everything that identified us with that nature. This is Paul's point when speaking to Ephesus.**

God asked Jacob what is your name? **What is your character, what is your nature, what is your reputation.** *"Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."* **Change of name meant a change of nature.** He went from being Jacob (deceiver) to Israel (Prince of God).

**To encounter His presence is to forever walk different and in Jacob's case with a limp. To many walk away from encounters with God the same person, with the same nature!**

Home group questions

1. What does it mean to walk in a worthy manner as a follower of Jesus Christ.
2. If we have truly encountered Jesus how can we walk the same? We are on a completely different path. Discuss how Jesus totally changed your direction.
3. Discuss the 6 attributes that originate from the Holy Spirit that each of us are called to walk in. Which one stands out to you and why?
4. Discuss-We are called as the body of Christ to have an emphasis not on what divides the church or make us different or special than other believers but what makes us one.
5. Why do some walk away from encounters with God with the same nature?