

Sermon 13: The Christian's Faithful Walk: Ephesians 4:1-6

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are 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..."

Introduction: Healthy Christianity

- **Four key components:**
 - Theological depth
 - Godly affections
 - Diligent service
 - Engagement in the body
- **We need balance:**
 - **Not just depth:** Some are more inclined to think deeply but lack affection and diligence.
 - **Not just passion:** Some are passionate and hard working but lack theological depth.
 - **Not just service:** Some work hard but do it out of duty without deep reflection.
 - **Not just a personal matter:** Some are naturally resilient and some are easily offended and withdraw from the body.
- **Order matters:**
 - **Head:** Service and affection should start with the mind.
 - **Heart:** As we ponder truth, we need to be deeply moved.
 - **Hands:** We need to take what is going on inside and serve.
 - **Community:** We cannot serve or properly grow in isolation.

Part 1: Paul's Ministry: 4:1 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called..."

- **It was built on a solid foundation:** "I therefore..."
 - **They have been united to Christ: 1:3** "Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ..."
 - **Their ultimate end has been firmly established: 1:4-5** "Chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children..."
 - **They have been regenerated: 2:1** "And you hath he quickened, who were dead..."
 - **They are His workmanship: 2:10** "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..."

- **God answers prayer: 3:20** "Unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us..."
- **It was vulnerable:** "The prisoner of the Lord..."
 - His identification with Christ cost him.
 - His association with the church at Ephesus cost him.
 - His commitment to Christ's purposes cost him.
- **It was deeply pastoral:** "Beseech you..."
 - **Instruction:** teaching the Word
 - **Intercession:** prayer
 - **Encouragement:** coming alongside
 - **Exhortation:** constructive confrontation
- **It practically connects position and practice:** "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called..."
 - **Walk:** Action
 - **Calling:** Position

Part 2: Paul's Message: 4:2-3 "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace..."

- **Be consistent:** "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called..."
 - **A life with an established pattern:** "Walk"
 - **A life that conforms to one's position:** "Worthy"
 - **A life that points to its ultimate end:** "Wherewith ye are called"
- **Be properly motivated:** Walk under the influence of the Spirit.
 - **"With all lowliness..."** Be humble rather than proud.
 - **"With meekness..."** Have a calculated restraint rather than an impulsive reaction.
 - **"With longsuffering..."** Endure rather than quit.
- **Be practical:**
 - **"Forbearing one another in love..."** Be willing to wait and restrain yourself
 - **"Endeavoring to keep the unity..."** Be willing to engage or re-engage when necessary

Part 3: Paul's Methodology: 4:4-6 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are 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..."

- **His method and foundation for ministry are inseparably linked:**
 - **Position:** "I therefore..."
 - **Calling:** "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called..."

- **The Christian life is distinct, practical, and in community:**
 - **We serve one Triune God:**
 - There is one Spirit
 - There is one Lord
 - There is one Father
 - **We are united to one another because we are united to Him:**
 - **“One body”** We have been placed into one body by the Spirit.
 - **“One hope of your calling”** He calls us all into the same eternal hope.
 - **“One Faith”** We have one object of faith: the gospel.
 - **“One Baptism”** We have all been united into Christ.
 - **“One Father above all”** We submit to Him.
 - **“One Father through all”** He works through us.
 - **“One Father in you all”** He communes with us.
- **We grow in community, not isolation:**
 - We are saved as individuals.
 - We stand before God as individuals.
 - We are personally responsible for our own decisions.
 - We are called to walk in community.
 - We serve in the body.
 - We grow in the body.
 - We cannot be healthy Christians if we neglect the body.

Application:

- **First: We need to recognize that the gospel and our union with Christ is the center of everything:**
 - We cannot do the right thing in the right way without a right relationship to God through the gospel.
 - The more we understand this, the better equipped we will be to live the Christian life.
- **Second: We need balance:**
 - We all have a natural tendency toward imbalance in some way.
 - It could be an imbalance toward the mind but not the affections.
 - It could be an imbalance toward the emotions but not the mind.
 - It could be an imbalance toward service without a healthy foundation.
 - It could be an imbalance toward isolation from community.
 - We need to recognize our tendencies and address them by God’s enabling.
- **Third: We need to walk consistently with our position:**
 - We need to think about who we are in Christ.

- We need to cooperate with what God is doing in our lives as cultivates godly virtues in us.
- We need to engage practically in people's lives.