

The Hard Work of Peace

As Paul begins Ephesians 4, he presents what might sound like a simple challenge: *Walk worthy of the calling you have received.* But there is nothing simple about it. Because that calling follows you everywhere. You have been chosen, adopted, redeemed, and forgiven. You have been raised up and seated with Christ. *That's the calling.* And now, here is the Spirit saying - "Live like it."

I. What Does It Mean to Live Like You've Been Called?

- A. Ephesians 4:1: *Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to **walk worthy** of the calling you have received,*
 - 1. Worthy - *axios*.
 - 2. It's a word referring to a scale.
 - 3. The question is - does your life match the weight of what's on the other side?
- B. Paul is making an identity claim.
 - 1. You are someone who has been called. And that calling follows you everywhere.
 - 2. Colossians 3:17: *And **whatever** you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

II. What This Actually Looks Like

- A. Ephesians 4:2: *with all humility and **gentleness**, with patience, bearing with one another in love,*
 - 1. Humility costs you your ego.
 - 2. Gentleness costs you your reaction.
 - 3. Patience costs you your timeline.
 - 4. Bearing with one another costs you your preference.
- B. Making Every Effort
 - 1. Ephesians 4:3: *making **every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*
 - a) It is as if we are like someone chasing something down.
 - b) Peace doesn't just happen - you have to go get it.
 - c) Unity isn't the natural state of a room full of different people.
 - 2. Romans 12:18: *If possible, as far as it **depends on you**, live at peace with everyone.*

III. Why This is Worth It

- A. Verses 4-6: look at what you already share:
 - 1. Ephesians 4:4-6: *There is **one** body and **one** Spirit—just as you were called to **one** hope at your calling — **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **one** God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*
 - 2. We are not strangers trying to find common ground. We already have it.
- B. Here is the foundation undergirding it all:
 - 1. Ephesians 2:14: *For he is our **peace**, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh,*
 - 2. It all runs back to Jesus. He himself is our peace.

IV. As We Close...

- A. The calling is real. The common ground is real. And He himself is our peace.
- B. The only question is... Am I walking like it?
- C. Today is the day to start. Give your life to the one who is our peace.