

Small Group Guide: Walking Worthy of Your Calling

Ephesians 4:1-16

Message Summary

This message from Ephesians 4:1-16, challenges us to live consistently with what we believe. After three chapters of doctrine about who we are in Christ, Paul now explains how to "walk worthy" of our calling—not to earn salvation, but to live in a way that reflects the incredible grace we've received.

Key Scripture Passages

- **Ephesians 4:1-3** - The call to walk worthy
- **Ephesians 4:4-6** - Seven "ones" of our unity
- **Ephesians 4:11-16** - The purpose and function of the church

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Understanding "Walking Worthy" (Verses 1-3)

1. **What does it mean to "walk worthy" of our calling?** How is this different from trying to earn our salvation?
2. **The sermon mentioned four characteristics of a worthy walk:**
 - **Lowliness** (humility)
 - **Gentleness** (power under control)
 - **Long-suffering** (patience beyond normal human patience)
 - **Bearing with one another** (sustaining others)
3. **Which of these is most challenging for you personally? Why?**
4. **Real-life application:** The pastor mentioned "long checkout line patience" and "no internet patience." What everyday situations test your ability to walk worthy? How can you respond differently this week?

Part 2: The Unity of the Church (Verses 4-6)

- 4. Read through the seven "ones" in verses 4-6.** Why is unity so important to God? What threatens unity in the church today?
- 5. The sermon stated: "Unity is not agreement upon everything that happens... Unity is everybody seeking the Lord Jesus Christ to walk in fellowship with Him."**
 - How does this definition change your perspective on church unity?
 - Can you think of areas where Christians can disagree while maintaining unity?
- 6. Personal reflection:** Are there any "curtains of division" you've put up between yourself and other believers? What would it look like to tear those down?

Part 3: Gifts and the Work of Ministry (Verses 7-16)

- 7. The purpose of church leadership** (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor-teachers) is "for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry" (v. 12).
 - How does this challenge the idea that ministry is only for "professionals"?
 - What does it mean that YOU are called to do "the work of the ministry"?
- 8. Verse 14 warns against being "tossed to and fro" by every wind of doctrine.**
 - In our age of social media and information overload, how can we avoid being deceived?
 - What practices help you stay grounded in truth?
- 9. Verse 15 calls us to speak "the truth in love."**
 - Why are both components (truth AND love) essential?
 - Share an example of when you've seen this done well or poorly.
- 10. Verse 16 describes the body "joined and knit together by what every joint supplies."**
 - What is your unique contribution to the body of Christ?
 - If you're unsure, what steps can you take to discover your role?

Key Takeaways

✓ **Walking worthy means living consistently with what we believe**—not to earn salvation, but as a response to grace.

✓ **Our faith should be visible in our character**: humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with others in love.

✓ **Unity in the church comes from all of us pursuing Christ together**, not from agreeing on every detail.

✓ **Every believer is called to ministry**—not just pastors. We are all equipped to do the work of building up the body.

✓ **Maturity comes from knowing God's Word deeply**, so we aren't deceived by false teaching.

✓ **The church grows when every member does their part** in love.

Practical Applications

This Week, I Will:

Choose one or two to focus on:

- **Practice "long-suffering" patience** in one specific area where I typically get frustrated (traffic, technology, people, etc.)
- **Reach out to reconcile or build unity** with someone in the church I've had tension with
- **Study 1 Corinthians 13:4-7** daily and ask God to develop one characteristic of love in me
- **Identify my spiritual gifts** by serving in a ministry area or taking a spiritual gifts assessment
- **Commit to reading/studying God's Word daily** to build a stronger foundation against deception
- **Speak truth in love** to someone who needs encouragement or correction

□ **Ask my pastor or small group leader:** "How can I better serve the body of Christ?"

Memory Verse

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

Closing Challenge

"Someone is always watching your tracks."

This week, live as though someone who can't read the Bible is watching your life to learn about Jesus. Because they are.

For Next Week

- Read Ephesians 4:17-32
- Reflect on: What does it mean to "put off the old man" and "put on the new man"?