

Ephesians 4:1-16 | Peace to You

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These verses speak to the "right" condition of the hearts of people who call on the name of Christ. There is a richness in these verses, which is the "life breath" for every Christ-follower. In this passage, Paul unveils principles that characterize how the new creation, this church of reconciled Jews and Gentiles, is expected to live and thrive.

The focus of the message centers on Ephesians 4:1-6. Three observations are noted. Paul's request is in verse 1; Our response in verse 2-3; and God's reasons in verse 4-6.

PAUL'S REQUEST

Paul urges the Ephesians to "*walk worthy of the calling you have received*" in verse 1.

- **Walk** – our walk indicates the conduct or lifestyle of a follower of Christ.
- **Worthy** - to live lives equal to the great blessings described in the early chapters of Ephesians.
- **Called** - the idea that God has taken the initiative in bringing humanity back to the goal He intended it to fulfill.
- **Calling** - refers to the position of status, honor, and responsibility God has entrusted to us.

OUR RESPONSE

Paul's requests demand a response. How are brothers and sisters in Christ expected to "walk?"

- **Humility** - is to see ourselves as God sees us.
- **Gentleness** - is power under control.
- **Patience** - believes God's timetable is good, no matter what it is.
- **Bearing in love** - is the willingness to put up with someone or something in a spirit of love.
- **Keeping unity** - manifest spiritual unity by relational unity

GOD'S REASONS

We are compelled to walk worthy of what He has called us to and why. Why, because we, the followers of Christ, are One Body, One Spirit, we have one hope, one Lord, one faith, and we participate in one baptism, the baptism that signifies identification with Christ's death. Finally, what is the resulting guarantee of our oneness in Christ? As verse 6 states, we serve the "*one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all to all.*"