

## WALKING WORTHY

### Walking in Unity and Purity

### Ephesians 4:1-32

The Great Transition: From exposition (Ephesians 1-3) to exhortation (Ephesians 4-6)

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, **urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...**” Ephesians 4:1

EPHESIANS 1-3	EPHESIANS 4-6
Spiritual Wealth	Spiritual Walk
The Position of the Believer	The Practice of the Believer
God Sees Us in Christ	The World Should See Christ in Us
Privilege	Practice
Doctrine	Duty
Revelation	Responsibility
Christian Blessings	Christian Behavior
Belief	Behavior
Work of Christ	Walk of the Christian
Heavenly Standing	Earthly Walk
Theology	Ethics

**Doctrine without practice** leads to bitter orthodoxy; it gives correctness of thought without the practical vitality of the life of Christ.

**Practice without doctrine** leads to aberrations; it gives intensity of feeling, but it is feeling apt to go off in any (and often a wrong) direction.

-- James Montgomery Boice

The calling to which you have been called

- Ephesians 1: Every Spiritual Blessing in Christ
- Ephesians 2: Salvation and reconciliation to God and other believers
- Ephesians 3: Revealed mystery and empowered ministry

The only command in Ephesians 1-3

- “...**remember** that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” Ephesians 2:12

Ephesians 4-6 has 40 commands

The Holy Spirit

- The same Holy Spirit who calls us also enables us to walk in a manner worthy.
- The Holy Spirit enlightens doctrine
  - The Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge enlightens our hearts to know the hope, the riches, and the power we have in Christ. (Ephesians 1 prayer)
- The Holy Spirit empowers duty
  - The Spirit strengthens our inner being with power to comprehend the love of God and to be filled with His fullness. (Ephesians 3 prayer)

## **Walking as One People: Manifest UNITY (4:1-16)**

### **The Unity of the Church reflects the Unity of the Triune God (4:2-11)**

- Unity in the Church begins internally (v.2)
  - Humility
    - “For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.” 2 Corinthians 4:5
  - Gentleness/meekness
    - Strength and power under control
    - “...for I am gentle and lowly in heart...” Matthew 11:29
  - Patience
    - endurance, steadfastness, perseverance, longsuffering, and slowness in avenging wrongs
  - Forbearance
    - Bearing = to sustain, bear, endure, or tolerate
    - We are called to tolerate other believers, enduring even when someone invites scorn or repudiation. This phrase implies overcoming some type of adversity or negativity and assumes there is conflict.
  - Love
    - “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Colossians 3:14
  - Peace
    - The bond of peace is created by God, bought by the blood of Christ, and enacted by the Spirit. We are called to eagerly maintain this unity.
    - Eager = exert oneself or give diligently towards a goal, make every effort
    - Maintain = to take care of, to attend to carefully, and to guard
- Unity in the Church arises from the unity of the Triune God (v.3-6)
  - “one” used 7 times alluding to the Trinity and the Christian experience
    - One Spirit – one body
    - One Lord, Jesus Christ –one hope, one faith, one baptism
    - One God and Father – above all, through all, and in all (one Family)

### **Unity is Enriched by Diversity (4:7-12)**

- Unity is enriched by the diversity of our gifts
  - Grace was given to “each one of us”: Unity is not lifeless colorless uniformity
  - Christ, the giver who descended and ascended
    - Descended in humility
      - “...who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:6-8

- Ascended in exaltation and power
  - “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”  
Philippians 2:9-11
- Christ’s gift to the Church: The Ministry of the Word
  - Leaders and teachers of the Word
    - Equipping the saints for the work of ministry
    - Building up the Body of Christ

### **Unity in Diversity leads to Spiritual Maturity and Growth (4:13-16)**

#### **Childhood**

- Tossed by every wind of doctrine, human cunning, craftiness in deceitful schemes
  - Deceived by false teachers
  - Do not proclaim the whole counsel of God, promise false hopes, justify sinful behavior, seek money or prosperity, deny suffering and hardship
    - “For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.” Romans 16:18
    - “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” 2 Timothy 4:3-4

#### **Maturity**

- “Truthing” in love
  - Living, doing, manifesting truth
  - “Truth becomes hard if not softened by love; love becomes soft if not strengthened by truth.” John Stott
  - “...how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.” Acts 20:20-21
- The foundational purpose of spiritual gifts is always loving, sacrificial service that builds up the Body of Christ
  - “The goal of preaching the Word is not merely educational, but transformational; it informs the mind in order to touch the conscience, mold the will, cleanse the affections, and sanctify the whole life.” Sinclair Ferguson
  - “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” John 17:17
  - Attaining: “unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (v.13)

## **Walking as Holy People: Manifest PURITY (4:17-32)**

### **The Old Self vs the New Self**

- Put off the old self
  - Displacement of the former manner of life: sinful habits and lifestyles
  - Corrupt with deceitful desires
  - Internal corruption: futility of their mind, darkened understanding, inward ignorance
  - External corruption: Became callous, shameless, unclean
- Put on the new self
  - Created after the likeness of God: true righteousness and holiness
  - Replacing old habits and patterns with Christlikeness
  - Internal transformation: learned Christ, heard about Him, taught in Him (in Truth)

### **Renewed in the Mind**

- “If heathen degradation is due to the futility of the mind, then Christian righteousness depends on the constant renewing of the mind.” John Stott
  - “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2
  - “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” Colossians 3:2
  - “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:8
  - “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” Joshua 1:8

### **Evidence of a Renewed Mind is Holy Living**

- Examples of holy living (v.25-32)
  - All concerning our relationships
  - All compare a negative to a positive
  - True belief leads to transformed behavior
- Truth must replace falsehood (25)
  - A lie is a stab into the vital organs of the Body
  - Fellowship is built on trust, and trust is built on truth
- Anger that is righteous must replace anger that controls us (26-27)
  - Be angry: anger can be righteous
  - Do not sin: pride, spite, malice, animosity, revenge
  - Don't let the sun go down: don't nurse your anger
  - No opportunity for the devil: angry people are vulnerable to corruption
- Generosity must replace theft (28)
  - We are stewards, not owners



**HOMEWORK**  
**WALKING IN UNITY**

<sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

John 17:20-23

1. Why does Jesus pray for His people to be one?
2. According to verse 20, who did His people come to believe in Him? How can we seek to be people who share His Word?
3. According to verse 23, He has given His people His glory. What does this mean? How does this make His people unified in Him?

**WALKING IN PURITY**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:13-16

1. What does it mean to be sober-minded? What is the opposite of sober and how would that impact your mind?
2. Our hope is to be set fully in His grace. Where do we tend to partially set our hope? How does this impact our behavior?
3. Where do you see yourself inclined to conform to the passions of your former ignorance? Where do you see yourself being transformed to be holy as He is holy?