

Ephesians 4:1-7 (NASB95)

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

- I. So Ephesians 4:1 again, Paul says: “...walk in a manner worthy of your calling.” What is your calling?
 - a. It must be a high calling because, again Paul says to “...walk in a manner worthy of your calling.”
 - b. So what is your calling?
 - c. Before answering this question, here's a better one: “What is the highest calling of any Believer?”
 - d. The highest calling of any Believer is NOT:
 - i. To be a pastor, missionary
 - ii. To be a great father, mother, etc.
 - iii. That you're a saint, a son, a kingdom of priests
 1. **1 Corinthians 1:9-10 (NASB)** 9 God is faithful, through whom you were called (same word) into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.
- iv. The highest calling of any Believer is to fellowship with the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Sovereign King of the Universe.
 1. **Luke 10:41-42 (NASB95)** 41 But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”
- v. The highest calling is to fellowship with the person of Jesus Christ. It is this fellowship that changes a person.
- vi. A life spent taking time understanding my position in Christ will be a life that missed the mark and aimed too low. A life spent understanding the person of Jesus Christ will have hit the mark.
- vii. You spend time in your “vertical calling” of fellowshiping with Jesus Christ and you will know what your “horizontal calling” is.
- viii. You spend time fellowshiping with Jesus Christ and you will be changed from the inside out and it will be evident to others:
 1. **Acts 4:13 (NIV)** When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

ix. When you spend time with Jesus Christ, it changes you and people recognize it. You are changed from the inside out and something happens to you.

II. **2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,**

- a. Fellowship with Him is powerful enough that it first changes the individual Believer from the inside out and that Believer finds themselves more:
 - i. Humble
 - ii. Gentle
 - iii. Patient
 - iv. You learn how to love others and are more tolerant of them
- b. The Believer finds themselves this way just by having spent time with Him, their ability to then walk these things (humility, gentleness, etc.) with other Believers begins to happen.
- c. I don't have to reverse engineer them they will begin to happen naturally.

Ephesians 4:3

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

III. Paul tells us to be “diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” What does this mean? If we aren't careful this can be one of those churchy phrases that sounds really good but nobody really knows what it really means or how we actually have the Unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- a. Let's take some time to do just that
 - i. **Diligent** - spoudazo (spü-däi-zo) - to exert one's self (to make effort), endeavour, give diligence
 - ii. Paul is saying “you need to be focused on making an effort at this”. And what is this? The Church having unity.

b. Notice what Paul advises the Corinthians of in verse 10 above:

- i. **1 Corinthians 1:10 (NASB)** Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1. He's advising the Corinthian church to have unity as well.

- ii. How does a body have unity with each other and not have divisions? **Being unified around Christ.** He is that powerful.

iii. Jesus, Himself spoke of this unity:

- 1. **John 17:20-23 (NASB)** 20 “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even 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 sent Me. 22 “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

- iv. We can see this unity is important. How is it that we have this unity?
 1. Paul tells us, it comes from the Spirit. We know this because he says the “unity of the Spirit.”
 2. So we see it’s a unity that the Spirit provides.
 3. So how does the Spirit do this? The best way to understand this is to understand what the Spirit’s job is:
 - a. **John 16:13-15 (NASB)** 13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 **“He will glorify Me,** for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 “All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.
4. The Spirit’s job is to glorify Jesus Christ. He only speaks what Christ tells Him to speak.
 - a. What is it that Christ tells Him to speak: **“He will guide you into all the truth”**
 - b. All the truth about what? The Truth about Jesus Christ.
 - c. It’s the understanding of the truth about the person and character (a little more each day) of Jesus Christ that unifies a body of Believers.
 - i. What are the divisions in the church:
 1. Some say it’s works plus faith for salvation
 2. Others say you can lose your salvation
 3. Some say in order to get to heaven you must persevere.
 - ii. What are these divisions really around though? Aren’t they really around the Truth about Jesus Christ?
 - iii. When do we as believers really have peace (true peace) with each other? Isn’t it when we are telling the truth about Jesus Christ? Isn’t when we aren’t all just telling the truth and saying the same thing about Jesus Christ but the way we live our lives tells the truth about Jesus Christ.
 - iv. **Is this not the “walk in a manner worthy of your calling” that Paul is speaking of?**
 - v. This also helps us to understand the next set of verses
- c. **4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.**
 - i. In other words taking into account what we were just talking about with the Holy Spirit and Christ there can only be one body (Church), one Spirit, one Lord, one faith etc. **How can we have unity around multiple Lords, multiple faiths, multiple baptisms etc?**
 1. **1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NASB)** 12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are

many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,

whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many.

- ii. You can't! Unity, much like the number one or the truth is exclusive.
- iii. **This is what brings a body of Believers peace that Paul is referring to in verse 3. Peace with Him and peace with each other.**
- iv. That is saying the same thing about Christ, the Spirit, the Father, how you grow in your faith, how you were saved or baptized.
- v. **This is why Believers have a unique relationship with each other that can't be had by others.**

II. 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

- a. **Through all and in all** - This is evidence that he's talking about the Church. There is a special connection that we are able to have with each other that can only be had by Believers.
- b. **As a matter of fact a Believer can't have this kind of unity with the world:**
 - i. **2 Corinthians 6:15 (NASB)** Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?
- c. We also find though, that Believers aren't to have unity with Believers who choose to walk carnally:
 - i. **1 Corinthians 5:11 (NASB)** But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one.
- d. What makes this so important?
- e. What makes this so important is the fact that the Sanctification portion of our journey is incredibly important. Living that portion of our lives well is important!
- f. If we are living our lives in such a way that we say you can live however you want and this Sanctification journey goes well, that you can live this portion of the journey out of fellowship with Christ and it will still go well...THEN WE ARE TELLING THE WORLD AND OTHER BELIEVERS A LIE!
- g. How does Sanctification work then?
 - i. **Hebrews 12:2-3 (NASB95)** 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
- h. The core of what gives us unity as Believers is not just being in His family, it's saying the truth about who He is by how we live and walk.