Walk Worthy of the Calling

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Review of Ephesians 4:1-32

NKJV **Ephesians 4:1** *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to* ***walk worthy of the calling*** *with which you were called,*

2 *with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,* **3** *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Walk worthy of our calling is showing kindness, love, and forgiveness toward anyone we may have had issues with.

Our desire is to ***unify*** and not *divide*—responding in *humility* and showing *patience* during delays or difficult situations.

We must unified in the teaching of God's Word and with what is His will on any issue—not unified with the opinions of the world or any other wrong opinions.

We are called to bear patiently with one another, but never to compromise with God's will and Word for us for the sake of unity. We must never go along with any opinion that is not in complete harmony with the Scriptures.

Ephesians 4:4 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as 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 above all, and through all, and in* ***you*** *all.*

One God *the Father who calls us His children;* ***One Lord*** the Savior who gave His life for us; ***One Spirit*** who empowers us to walk humbly; ***One Faith*** in Christ; ***One Body*** the Church; ***One Baptism*** by *believing in Jesus;* and ***One hope*** of being in Heaven with all believers.

Different opinions on things may be common—but we must all agree that we all head for the same goal through the same obedient faith on the inspired teaching of Jesus who spoke the Father's infallible words to be followed—and never compromised.

And we keep an *enduring trust* on His atoning sacrifice He made for us when He took our place on the cross.

Ephesians 4:7 *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

8 *Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*

9 *Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?* **10** *He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)*

Trust on God and faith in Jesus includes receiving *gifts* to help anyone in the family of God.

The plan God has from the beginning was for Jesus to *descend* to earth; become part of humanity; to *suffer* and die for everyone—then rise to life and to *ascend* to be at the Father's right side.

Ephesians 4:11 *And* ***He Himself*** *gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,* **12** *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying [instruction] of the body of Christ.*

God Himself inspired the appointment of those to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to instruct the body of Christ—His true church.

Service messages are to instruct on Truth to help those attending to grow spiritually; to decide correctly; and to live each day with a purpose—to *glorify God* in all that is said, done, and decided.

Ephesians 4:13 "*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect [mature] man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

14 *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

Growing in faith and trust on God protects us from being influenced by any teaching that omits divine healing, financial trust, or forgiving others.

We should know *Jesus well enough* so we can identify erroneous *teaching soon enough*—not being deceived to trust in anything or anyone but God—faithful *trust* is a *must!*

Ephesians 4:15 *but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—*

16—NIV *"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament,*

grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

A mature believer witnesses for Jesus in the way they behave; *walk; talk;* and *act* toward them. *Does our **walk** agree with our **talk**?* Is ***Jesus visible** through our **discussions**?*

Jesus shows the direction through His Spirit, and He gives purpose to do things every day as a member of His true family of believers in Him.

We *should* use our gifts to benefit others—that helps keep the unity and shows God's love to others as we do our part when God inspires us to help.

Ephesians 4:17 *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind [thinking NIV],*

18 *having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;*

The *new life* Jesus gives includes a *new attitude* toward family and friends.

The Holy Spirit helps us get rid of anything that causes division and discord.

Our new interests, conversations, and desires is the evidence of walking worthy of the calling. Our *talk* as we *walk* to the Kingdom is different and right.

Ephesians 4:19 *[Gentiles] who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

20 *But you have **not so learned** Christ,* **21** *if indeed you have **heard** Him and have been **taught** by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

Satan wants believers to be *callous* to wrong desires and attitudes—and he always makes this callousness become worse.

Jesus wants us to be the opposite—to know immediately when we have taken a wrong attitude or made a wrong decision on some matter.

Jesus is ***the way*** and we follow ***His truth*** as we make *our way* to ***eternal life*** **John 14:6.**

Ephesians 4:22 *"That you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, the old [self] which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,*

23 *and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,* **24** *and that you **put on** the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*

What we *say* and how we *behave* should imitate Jesus being *renewed in the spirit*. Our attitude toward everything is ***not*** to be like the world—what is in our *heart* is heard in our words—**Matt. 12:34.**

Ephesians 4:25 *"Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.*

26 *"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,* **27** *nor give place to the devil."*

The Holy Spirit keeps our anger in check, and will not allow Satan to get a foothold. An angry word or unkind response provides Satan an on-ramp into our heart.

Ephesians 4:28 *"Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.*

What can I take becomes *What can I give?* The gift of grace we have been given is more valuable than anything the world could offer. We should give whenever we can.

Ephesians 4:29 *"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers*."

The Holy Spirit can help us *eliminate* words that *tear down*—and change them to words that *build up, inform, and benefit.*

Ephesians 4:31 *"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be **put away** from you, with all malice [spiteful, mean].*

32 *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God **in Christ** forgave you."*

We *forgive* because we have been *forgiven*; We *show* grace because we have *received grace*; We *love* because God *loves* us.

And He loved us enough to send His Son to die in our place and offer what we all need most—***forgiveness and eternal life!***

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