

Ephesians 4:1-6

Walk Worthy of Your Calling

- Walk in the Love 5:1
- Walk in the Light 5:8
- Walk in Wisdom 5:15

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. 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.

Well Baseball season is well under way. –

A) If you are an avid Baseball fan – you no doubt remember the great Pittsburgh Pirate team of 1979 – won the World series

B) Even if you are not a Baseball fan – you might remember that team- team song – We are family..... Sister sledge

C) Pirate first basemen: "We won, we lived, and we enjoyed as one. "We molded together dozens of different individuals into one working force. We were products of different races, were raised in different income brackets, but in the clubhouse and on the field we were one." Willie Stargell Pittsburgh Pirates 1979

D) We won, we lived, and we enjoyed as one!
1) Good slogan for a team – good slogan for a Church

E) Change it slightly to We lived, we won, we lost, we rejoiced and we cried as one!

1) Jesus prayer John 17 That they may be one...one

Today we are beginning a brand new section of our study in the book of Ephesians.

A) Ephesians is divided into 3 sections - Sit / Walk/ Stand - Sit = 1-3 / Walk- 4-69 / Stand = 6:10

B) Wealth/ Walk / Warfare

C) Today we begin looking at this 2nd session on the believers walk

- Walk worthy of your calling 4:1
- Walk like a new person 4:17-32

Interesting that Paul begins this section on the walk – by discussing our place and function in the body of Christ

A) Message: Walk in a manner worthy of your calling

B) Walk = manner of life or lifestyle

C) Worthy = Weight – Picture Scales – Your Calling as Christian on one side – your walk or manner of life on the other

1) Big idea: Your manner of life should be equal to your calling!

What does Paul mean by Our Calling:

A) This takes us back to Chapter 1-3 Saw that the focus was on our Identity in Christ

B) Interesting that the Paul starts individually – Saint – Chosen – redeemed – Forgiven – made alive – His workmanship

C) But toward the end of Chapter 2 Paul moves from an individual focus to describing our connection together IN CHRIST

1) Together we form a Body – one new humanity – made up of Jews and Gentiles

D) We make up the Building of God – each of us as living stones brought together in Jesus

1) There is a Unity and oneness that makes up the body of Christ - What we call the church!

It is this thought that Paul is on Paul's mind as he begins this conversation – Walk worthy of our calling! – Unity

A) That makes perfect sense if you at all remember the Words of our Lord to His disciples – John 13

B) The world will know you are my disciples by your: Songs? Scripture knowledge? Great buildings you build ?

1) No – they will know by your Love for one another!

C) Context here is our interpersonal relationships

How do we have a manner of life equal to the calling we have been brought into?

A) Answer V.3 Walk in Unity V.3 Endeavoring to keep.....peace

B) Endeavoring: Idea or striving – putting forth an effort – working hard

1) Keep = to guard – maintain –

C) Keep the Unity – not create a unity

This is what we need to catch here: There is a Unity that already exist amongst believers –

A) There is oneness that already exist

Aa) So we don't need to ban together – hold hands – sing Kumbi ya

B) **There is a Unity – that already exist** in the body of Christ whether we realize it or not.

1) Related by blood – blood bought – we are connected to Jesus

C) We are family – all my brothers and sisters and me

1) The question is are we going to act like we are family or not ?

Two questions I want to answer today

- #1 What is this Unity
- #2 How do we keep it

Start with what is this Unity – Characteristics of this Unity V.4-6

A) V.4 One body- There is one Body of Jesus Christ – all believers are a part of that!

B) Notice the apostle does not say **one organization**. But a BODY !!! A living Organism

C) **One thing that fascinates me - is the study of Human anatomy .**

D) It is amazing the way that we have been put together

1) I love statistics like these /in a 24 hr.period **Your heart beats 80 times per minute, or about 4,800 beats per hour. That's over 115,200 times per day.**

E) **Your blood travels 12,000 miles a day / 4 times across the US**

1) You take over 23,000 breaths in a day!

The body is a masterpiece / Beautifully engineered, it is governed by several hundred systems of control –

A) Each interacting with and affecting the other.

B) The essence of a body is that it consists of trillions of cells with one mutually shared life.

1) That is what the Church is Millions of Souls Connected together by the mutually shared Life of JC

C) One body – many members – we all come into the body the same way

1) Faith in Jesus Christ!

One Hope: Romans 8

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation {Hope} of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; **When Adam sinned – all of nature was affected by the fall – Creation is longing to be put back together!**

Longing for that day when Jesus comes and sets things right –

²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. **Creation groans – think about that – the animal kingdom is groaning – made right –**

²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. **We groan our bodies groan – every day wake up – groaning – one day new body – made into what we are supposed to be**

It is not just the physical aspects of our Body – but also – our flesh

A) Every time we give into a temptation –

B) every time that we respond in a way – that is of the flesh – WE GROAN

C) WHEN AM I GOING TO GET THIS RIGHT!

1) Walking with Jesus all these years – still making mistakes – still battling our flesh

D) We groan – that is our Hope – **one day this mortal is going to put on immortality – Imperfection – put on perfection**

John said this: Our hope in Heaven – we are going to see Jesus – and we are going to be like Him! –

A) Whoever has this hope – purifies himself just as Jesus is pure

B) That is the Hope of our calling that we all Share – We share it because we all struggle in similar ways – 1) **with our feelings about this crazy world**

C) We all struggle with the weakness of our flesh – bound by this common hope - back to Ephesians 4

One Spirit: Reference to the Holy Spirit – who is the life of the Church living inside of the individual members

A) This is the answer to the weakness of our flesh –

B) God's spirit is living inside each of us as individual believers

C) The prophet Zechariah was once confronted with a great mountain which God said would become a plain.

1) When Zechariah began to look around to see how this could happen, **where the power would come from,**

D) **OR what instruments would be provided to level that mountain and make it into a plain, - LACKING**

E) **THEN** the word of the Lord came to him, saying, *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts," {Zech 4:6}.*

The same is true in our lives – Hope gets legs – through the Spirit living in us – empower / transform

A) **It is the Spirit of God that is the true power of the church together as well – Impact our world**

B) The strength of the church never comes from its **numbers- wealth or programs –**
1) **But from the power of the HS living in & thru it's people .**

C) **One spirit we are depend upon – and tuned into**

D) **Take 100 pianos – have them all perfectly tuned together – you know how?**

1) **All get tuned to the same tuning fork**

They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other,

A) **but to another standard to which each one must individually bow.**

B) **So to when we are in tune to the Holy Spirit – we are tuned into each other as well.**

C) **So there is one body, One hope, one Spirit**

V.5 There is One Lord:

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* Philippians 2:9-11

A) **One Ultimate Authority that we have yielded ourselves to**

1) He is the supreme person of the universe. There is no other Lord; there will never be another Lord.

B) **That is why the early Christians would not say, "Caesar is Lord," as the persecutors of the early church attempted to get them to do.**

C) **Jesus Christ is Lord – He is Sovereign – Lives are to be Yielded to Him and revolving around Him**

There is One Faith

A) **We all get into the body of Christ the same way – by placing our faith in Jesus Christ!**

B) **Not your connection to your parents – or your wife – or your husband**

1) **It is your faith in Jesus Christ alone!**

C) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

D) **All the same – Sinners in need of a Savior – level playing field!**

1) Sinners saved by grace – come into through faith

There is One Baptism:

A) Wait a second – Bible talks about Water Baptism – Baptism of the Holy Spirit – Baptism by fire

B) Water baptism – some do it – Ocean or a Lake – others a Baptismal

1) Some full immersion – others sprinkle

C) Note Reference here to one baptism is not about the method.... but the Fact that we have been Baptized into the Body of Christ

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free –

D) We have been immersed or submerge – what the word baptism means

1) We have been immersed or submerged into the body of Christ into the very life of Christ!

Last mark of our Unity: We have one God and Father of us all

A) Who is above all! – He is God – we are not – he is the one running this show

B) Through all – He is working in and through all of us – for His Glory

C) So those are the marks of our Unity – the Unity that already exist

- V.4 One body
- V.4 One hope
- V.4 One Spirit
- V.5 One Lord
- V.5 One Faith
- V.5 One Baptism
- V.6 One God and Father of us all

D) This is our unity – Celebrate this – honor this –

1) Paul says, we are to “endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit.”

E) Those are the essentials that Mark the body of Christ – but it is in the non essentials where we get into trouble – division happens

It is when we take our eyes off of Jesus – tune him out – and we start tuning into other voices –

Division occurs

A) The Church can become divided over the stupidest of things

B) Style of Music / dress / Color of pews / pews or Chairs

1) Churches can divide over the craziest of things -

Two congregations located only a few blocks from each other in a small community decided to become one united, and thus larger and more effective, body instead of two struggling churches. But the merger did not happen because they could not agree on how to recite the Lord’s prayer. One group wanted “forgive us our trespasses,” while the other demanded “forgive us our debts.”

C) So how do we Keep, maintain or guard the Unity?

- Lowliness = humility – Humble hearts

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3

Don’t think too highly of yourself

A) Think soberly or rightly - two ways this happens - #1 See Jesus – see myself in light of Him – he is the standard

B) Those who compare themselves among themselves are not wise

1) Always find someone among this group worse than me

C) Jesus is the standard: See myself in light of him – I am a Mess

1) I have so much still that God needs to do in me.

D) Paul called himself the chief of sinners – the closer he got to Jesus –

1) the more he realized how unlike Jesus he was!

So first I think soberly – rightly by looking at Jesus

A) Second – I think soberly by looking within. – Truly see myself

B) See when if I judge only my actions – again – I can feel pretty good, because majority of the time – I do the right thing

1) I react the right way.

C) But when I judge my motives and my heart and what I am thinking – that can be another story

1) My motives can be all messed up – my heart and thoughts reveal the wickedness that is in my heart

D) If I said what I was thinking in that moment when someone did something to me – it would be horrible

Right thinking – about who I am – and how unlike Jesus – I still am keeps me humble – and reminds me – I am still a work in progress

A) Reminds me – that you are still a work in progress to

B) Which helps me to walk in the next characteristic that Paul mentions in V.2

Gentleness = Meekness – Power under control

C) Meekness is seen in the person who knows they are in the right – **but they don't throw into another person's face!**

D) There is a gentleness in dealing with others – where being right is not the point – but maintaining unity is.

1) "in essentials, unity; in doubtful matters, liberty; in all things, charity."

How do we keep the Unity that we have in Jesus?

- Lowliness = humility
- Gentleness = meekness or power under control
- **Longsuffering = being patient** – “Long burning”

A) A slow burning candle vs a Fire cracker – short fuse

B) Slow burning candle – soothing – you are drawn in – this is nice - **Fire cracker – you run right**

C) Longsuffering = being patient – “Long burning”

- Large emotions – picture wells of water that don't dry up easily

D) The most illuminating thing about this trait is that it is used the most in the NT in describing God's attitude toward people.

1) He is longsuffering – Patient with us

E) Greg O – kick the guy out of the Youth group – Has God ever kicked you out

Lastly Bearing with one another in Love

A) **Love covers a multitude of sins** – 1 Peter 4:8

B) Ham with his father – Exposed his dad's nakedness – Love covers

C) “Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions.” Proverbs 10:12

Now do you see the purpose of Paul's prayer last time Chapter 3

A) Prayer for strength – This doesn't come natural

B) Prayer for Jesus to be at home in my heart – no room for attitudes and grudges

C) Prayer to understand the Love – more I understand how deeply I am loved **The more loving I will be**

Celebrate our unity at the Cross

A) Sinners – savior

B) Brought into this family – by the blood of Jesus!

C) Celebrate that today

Don't partake in an unworthy manner

Pray!

Do you want to be a part of this family?

Acknowledge our need to be tuned into You

A) Your example –

B) Your sacrifice – Calvary

1) Your call to us – Deny ourselves – live self-sacrificing lives for You – for others

C) Acknowledge our need – less of us and more of you in our lives

1) This place – our relationships

Amen!