Bible Study Pastor Joffre Swinney

"Walking Worthy Of Your Calling" Ephesians 4:1-6

Here Paul gives hindsight on the believer's position with all the blessings, honors, and privileges of being a child of God in order to live out ones salvation in accordance with the Father's will to His glory.

Ephesians 4:1 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,"

Paul urges them to "walk worthy of" their "vocation", they are to live in a manner appropriate to the divine call or invitation by which we have been urgently call unto salvation.

The "I", in the verse above, of course, is Paul. The high calling of these Ephesians was to become Christians and thereby become sons of God.

"The prisoner of the Lord": Paul never once forgot that he was the captive of the Lord Jesus Christ. By mentioning his imprisonment Paul gently reminded the Ephesian believers that the faithful Christian walk can be costly and that he had paid a considerable personal price because of his obedience to the Lord.

We know that salvation is a free gift of grace from God to all who will accept it but, that is not the end of the subject. When we accept the Lord Jesus as our Savior, that is just the first step. There is still work to be done. Matthew 9:38

"Walk" is frequently used in the New Testament to

"<u>To walk worthy</u>" refer to a believers daily conduct. The apostle urged his readers to be everything the Lord desires and empowers them to be, not turning back to a sinful lifestyle. <u>Galatians 5:1</u>

<u>True salvation</u> brings about a brand-new lifestyle for the believer. <u>2 Corinthians 5:17</u>

It is a life filled with good works, not because the works are required, but because good works follow the new life. James 2:14-23, Ephesians 2:9-11

"Vocation": In the verse above, means calling or invitation. This is not a job chosen to make a living by, but to make a life by. Christianity is a way of life. 1 Peter 2:9

The believer who walks in a manner worthy of the calling with which he has been called is one whose daily living corresponds to his high position as a child of God and fellow heir with Jesus Christ. His practical living matches his spiritual position. John 1:10-13

Ephesians 4:2 "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love:"

Such noble conduct includes humility, patience toward others, and bending over backward to maintain "unity," or harmony, among God's people.

"Lowliness" means Humility, which is one of the most and important foundational Christian virtue. James 4:6, Matthew. 5:3,

We cannot even begin to please God without being humble, just as our Lord Himself could not have pleased His Father had He not willingly "emptied Himself, Philippians. 2:7-8

"Meekness": (another word is gentleness), which refers to that which is mild spirited and self-controlled Matthew. 5:5; 11:29; Galatians. 5:23; Colossians. 3:12

<u>"Longsuffering"</u> is another word for patience. "Forbearing one another in love": Humility, gentleness and patience are reflected in a forbearing love for others that is continuous and unconditional <u>1 Peter 4:8.</u>

The word "love" spoken of here, stem from the word agape, which is the unselfish type of love that only God has. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Ephesians 4:3 "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

The unity of the Spirit here, is the Holy Spirit. We are one with Christ in this Spirit, as He is one with the Father. <u>John 10:25-30,</u> <u>John 17:20-21</u>

"Unity of the Spirit": The Spirit-bestowed oneness of all true believers has created the bond of peace, the spiritual cord that surrounds and binds God's holy people together.

The church's responsibility, through the lives of individual believers, is to preserve the unity by faithfully walking in a manner worthy of God's calling (verse 1), and manifesting Christ to the world by oneness in Him.

The bond that preserves <u>unity is peace</u>, the spiritual belt that surrounds and binds God's holy people together. The only real peace in this life is the peace that Jesus gives us from within. A peace the world does not understand. John 14:27

<u>Humility</u> gives birth to gentleness, gentleness gives birth to patience, patience gives birth to forbearing love, and all four of those characteristics preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

<u>Verses 4-6:</u> Elaborates on the "<u>unity of the Spirit</u>" Everything that relates to salvation, the church and the kingdom of God is based on the concept of unity as reflected in Paul's use of seven "one's" in these three verses.

This oneness among Christians refers to having:

- (1) One body The one body of Christ, the Christian church;
- (2) One "Spirit" The same Holy Spirit who imparts the same spiritual life to all believers;
- (3) "One hope" All Christians share the same future certainty and are headed toward the same heavenly destination;
- (4) "One Lord" All submit to the same divine ruler, Jesus;
- (5) "One faith" All believers have placed the same trust in Christ for salvation;
- (6) "One baptism" Holy Spirit baptism at the time of salvation (1 Cor. 12:13); and
- (7) "One God and Father" All believers in Christ have the same God and heavenly Father.

<u>Verses 4-6</u>: In these verses, Paul lists the particular areas of oneness, or unity. Paul focuses on the Trinity, the Spirit (in verse 4); the Son (in verse 5); and the Father (in verse 6).

Paul's point is not to distinguish between the persons of the Godhead but to emphasize that, although they have unique roles, they are completely unified in every aspect of the divine nature and plan.

Are you "Walking Worthy Of Your Calling"?