"WALK WORTHY"

Ephesians 4:1-6

4-12-2023

INTRODUCTION:

***We must have a <u>walk</u> that matches our <u>wealth</u>**

What is a walk that matches your wealth?

Paul gives 4 spiritual qualities that will show whether or not your walk matches your vocation (calling):

I. The Quality of <u>LOWLINESS</u> (v. 2)

II. The Quality of <u>MEEKNESS</u>

III. The Quality of <u>LONGSUFFERING</u>

IV. The Quality of <u>UNITY</u> (v. 3-6)

A. Unity is maintained by effort

B. Unity is held together by peace (v. 3b)

C. Unity is illustrated by Spiritual reality (v. 4-6)

CONCLUSION:

"Who, Mx??"

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works wxll xxcxpt for onx kxy. Thxrx arx forty-six kxys that function, but just onx not working makxs thx diffxrxncx. Somxtimxs it sxxms that a church is likx my typxwritxr--that not all thx kxys arx working propxrly. You may say, "Wxll, I'm only onx pxrson; I don't makx or brxak a church." But a succxssful chruch, to bx xffxctivx, rxquirxs

thx activx participation of xvxry mxmbxr. So thx nxxt timx you think that you xfforts arx not nxxdxd, rxmxmbxr my old typwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am vxry valuablx to my church and I am nxxdxd vxry much! For thx church to succxxd, I must do my vxry bxst!"

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INTRODUCTION:

Background of Ephesus - major commercial, political, religious, cosmopolitan area

Chapters 1 - 3 - Doctrinal (principle) (dealing with the <u>wealth</u> of salvation)

Chapters 4 - 6 - Duty (practical) (dealing with the <u>walk</u> of believers)

Right doctrine is essential to right living.

Paul moves now from <u>positional</u> exhortation to <u>practical</u> exhortation.

V. 1

"The prisoner of the Lord" - Paul "gently reminds his readers that he knows the worthy Christian walk can be costly" (MacArthur, p. 117)

"Walk worthy of the vocation" - Vocation = calling (referring to our great salvation, our Heavenly calling, described in chapters 1-3).

"The Lord expects us to act like the new persons we have become in Jesus Christ. He expects His standards to become our standards, His purposes our purposes, His desires our desires, His nature our nature. The Christian life is simply the process of <u>becoming what you are."</u> (MacArthur, p. 116)

Because our "calling" is a high calling, because it is a "heavenly calling" (heb. 3:1) and a "holy calling" (II Tim. 1;9), our living should be a <u>higher</u> standard of living, a heavenly walk, a holy walk.

ILLUS: of clothes mismatched; baseball players whose pay doesn't match their performance

Does your performance match what God has done for you?

1.The Father planned our salvation

--He blessed us (1:3 - spiritual blessings)
--He chose us (1:4)
--He adopted us (1:5)
--He accepted us (1:6)

2.The Son provided our salvation

--He redeemed us (1:7)
--He revealed the mystery (one Body - 1:10)
--He gave us an inheritance (1:11)

3.The Holy Spirit protects our salvation

--He sealed us (1:13)
--He secured us (1:14)

*What we were:

Dead in sin (2:1)
Walked as world (2:2)
Influenced by Satan (2:2)
Enslaved by appetites (2:3)

Transition: 2:4 - "But God"

*What we are now:

Made alive together (2:5)
Raised up together (2:6)
Seated together (2:6)
Trophies of God (2:7)
God's accomplishment (2:10)

*What we were (2:11 - "Remember")

Without Christ (2:12)
Aliens from place of blessing (2:12)
Strangers from God's promises (2:12)
No hope
Without God

*What we <u>are now</u>

Made close by Blood (2:13)
Have peace (2:14)
United into one Body (2:16)
Built upon the foundation (2:20)

***We must have a <u>walk</u> that matches our <u>wealth</u>**

Walk = lifestyle, conduct, manner of living

Worthy = equal, equivalent, that which <u>balances</u> the scales

Ex: John 1:27 - John said he was <u>not worthy</u> to loose Christ's shoe latchet

Acts 15:11, 25 - Paul said if he did anything <u>worthy</u> of death he refused not to die

What is a walk that matches your wealth?

Paul gives 4 spiritual qualities that will show whether or not your walk matches your vocation (calling):

I.The Quality of <u>LOWLINESS</u> (v. 2)

John Wesley observed that "neither the Romans nor the Greeks had a word for humility." The very concept was so foreign and abhorrent to their way of thinking that they had no term to describe it" (MacArthur, p. 120).

Humbleness - a proper estimate of self

Pride reflects a wrong view of self and a wrong view of God. When we see Him as He is, we will then see ourselves as we really are.

"Humility takes off our rose-colored glasses and allows us to see ourselves as we really are. We are not adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves,' says Paul, 'but our adequacy is from God'." (II Cor. 3:5)

Acts 20:19 - *"Serving the Lord with all humility of mind"*

Phil. 2:3 - *"Do nothing by strife or vainglory but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others"*

I Pet. 5:5 - *"Be clothed with humility"*

Quotes:"When you know you've got humility, you've lost it"

"The beginning of greatness is to be little; the increase of greatness is to less; the perfection of greatness is to be nothing."

Cp. Eph. 3:8 - "Less than the least of all saints"

When we realize our unworthiness of our great salvation (ch. 1-3), we then in response to that salvation can walk humbly.

II.The Quality of <u>MEEKNESS</u>

Meekness = to have strength under control; mild; tame

The word "meek" (gentle) does not mean "weak" but so strong that you are approachable by anyone. It is controlled strength that is not wild, unruly, or out of control. But mild-mannered, cool, calm, collectable. The Greek word "praotes" was used of tame animals (ex: horses and lions) and soothing wind (which had the potential of doing great damage.

One of the marks of true meekness is self-control. People who are angered at every nuisance or inconvenience to themselves know nothing of meekness or gentleness (MacArthur, p. 125).

Prov. 16:32

Gentleness - patient submissiveness; a quality shown between friends, when you don't want to fracture relationship

God dealt gently with us in bringing us to Christ and salvation. WE should not forget such, but allow it to temper our behavior.

III.The Quality of <u>LONGSUFFERING</u>

Patience ( ) = large heat - one who can take the heat; to be able to wait a long time before you would lose your Spirit control and testimony. . . i.e. to be long-fused.

--A restraint of anger or agitation

--A persistence in waiting for God to work things out rather than your forcing them

--This person can bear injury and insult without retaliating (Ja. 1:19 - slow to anger)

READ Ja. 5:7-11

II Tim. 4:2 - *"Preach the word, be instant. . . with all <u>longsuffering</u> and doctrine"*

ILLUS: Phil. 4:2 - two ladies who could not get along or work with each other:
Euodia ("odious")
Syntyche ("soon touchy")

"To dwell above with saints we love,
O that will be glory,
To dwell below with saints we know,
Well, that's another story!"

"True patience means waiting without worrying"

"Patience is accepting a difficult situation without giving God a deadline to remove it"

*Patience is needed <u>while</u> lifting up (enduring) one another <u>in love</u> (v. 2b)

"In love" = a giving without grudging, but with a sense of family affection

God was patient with us (and still is); His longsuffering gave us the time and occasion to be saved. Considering His "calling," shouldn't our lives match?

Patience - EX. of David Livingstone (MacArthur, p. 127)

IV.The Quality of <u>UNITY</u> (v. 3-6)

Context =not external unity with other churches (organizations)
but internal heart unity (relational)

A.Unity is maintained by effort

"Endeavoring" = making every effort

Church unity is like marriage - you must zealously work at maintaining it.

"Did you know you can't create unity in the church? God already created it; all you can do is destroy it. The unity of the church is already done by the Holy Spirit; all we can do is:1) mess it up
2) maintain it (MacArthur)

"To keep" = to guard, preserve, hold on to

EX: Peter imprisoned by Herod and slept between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison"

"Unity" = comes from the word which means one

Paul is not talking about our being united to the Spirit, but our being united (in a common oneness) with other believers by the Spirit

Unity is:oneness, singleness, harmony, agreement, togetherness, comradery, blending, joining, cooperation, a pulling together, a standing shoulder-to-shoulder, and working side by side

ILLUS: Turn to Acts 2:41-46

Fellowship (v. 42); together (v. 44); had all things common (v. 44); one accord (v. 46); singleness of heart

Turn to Acts 4:32-37 - One heart and one soul (v. 32), had all things common (v. 32)

READ Psalm 133

B.Unity is held together by peace (v. 3b)

"Bond" = idea of gluing, cementing, or tying together

Ja. 3:18 - "And the fruit if righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace"

A home without peace is a home without togetherness

A business without peace is a business without harmony

A church without peace is a church without unity

C.Unity is illustrated by Spiritual reality (v. 4-6)

a.***"One body"*** - all believers, collectively, "Bride"

ILLUS: unity of Body in Heaven; earthly local churches are representative

I Cor. 12:13 - *"For by one Spirit . . . one body"*

Eph. 2:16 - Christ abolished the O.T. Law as a means of approaching and serving God by His death, "*That He might reconcile both unto God in <u>one body</u> by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby"*

b.***"One Spirit"*** - Read Eph. 2:18

I Jn. 4:1 - "Try the spirits. . . " (there is one <u>true</u> Spirit)

A divided church is not right with God - the Spirit only leads one way

c.***"One hope" -*** a single confidence. We all share a common salvation. We have the same assurance. WE look forward to the same eternity.

d.***"One Lord"*** (Master, owner) == Christ

He has right to rule over your life if He is your Lord.

e.***"One faith"***

Only one means of truth - Bible

Only one means of salvation - Christ

f.***"One baptism"*** (water = symbol; Spirit = reality)

Both are implied here.

Not a baptism in the name of Paul (I Cor. 1:13) or any other Apostle. But a baptism in the name of the Triune Godhead

Ex: Peter linked water baptism with Spirit baptism when he said, "Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?"

NOTE: parallel -

Belief . . . Spirit baptized . . . Member of Body
(Bride) of Christ

Testimony . . .Water baptism . . .Church membership

g.***"One God and Father"***

Similar statement to I Cor. 8:4b & 6

"Father of all" - all who have accepted His "calling" or invitation to salvation (v. 1, 4)

"Above all" - sovereignty (power); powerful

"Through all" - source (provision); provisional

"In all" - sustenance (personal relationship); personal

Rom. 11:36 - *"For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."*

CONCLUSION:

V. 4 - Emphasizes the <u>Holy Spirit</u>

V. 5 - Emphasizes the <u>Son</u>

V. 6 - Emphasizes the <u>Father</u>

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