

EPHESSIANS 4:1-3

THE WALK, & WORK AND APPLICATION OF THE SAINTS.

INTRO:

- The enemy seeks to divide, brother against brother, sister against sister.
- The early church life was built on the 4 pillars established by the Holy Spirit as seen in Acts 1:41-42.
- This is important to us because of the word, FELLOWSHIP. Communion. Doing life together.
- Here, beginning at verse 1 of the fourth chapter, is the transition.
- Doctrine, (1-3) and practice. (4-6)
- All of these exalted and blessed doctrines of chapters 1-3, that inspire our hearts and minds, that set our emotions racing, where we find our hearts screaming out, "hallelujah," now lead us to these practical out-workings of all that has gone before us, to this place of walking out the fulfillment of our calling.
- After these glorious truths, we are called to walk the Calvary road, the Via Dolorosa.
- We must move from the mount of transfiguration to the valley of the demon possessed boy. From the supper and song to the garden of Gethsemane.
- Where the rubber hits the road.
- The challenge to live the life we are called to, in the light of the doctrines we have seen.
- If we can know and understand the scriptures we then have no excuse not to obey them.

Read 4; 1-3. The WALK, WORK, and reconciling the WONDED.

Verse 1.

THE WALK:

- The conjunction uniting these two parts is this important word "THEREFORE." (7X in Ephesians.)
- Therefore looks back at all the great doctrine of the Holy Spirit in chapters 1-3
- More closely see **3:10, 21**
- Therefore, since all this doctrine is to be worked in and through us according to the power that works in us, the power that comes from Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, we are to live lives that bring to Him glory in the church.... Therefore we must walk worthy..

- All glory is to be unto Him in the church, not to the preacher/pastor, the worship leader etc... But Him.
- **PRISONER:** Paul mentions this 5 times. Twice in Ephesians. In Rome.
 - He wore this title as a badge of honor.
 - Col. 1:24; I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,
 - How much do I/you suffer? Gal. 6:17; I bear in my body the marks.
- **BESEECH/BEG.** "to call to one's aid or side." (Para-kaleo) TO EXHORT.
- **Walk:** To walk about, to conduct one's self, to order one's behavior. Moving forward. Consistency, Maturity. Gen. 17:1; Walk before Me.
- **Worthy:** Literally to "weigh as much as" to weigh equal to. To give equal weight. (Weighed in the balances. Daniel 5:27)
 - Heb. 6:9, But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.
 - Titus 2:10. not pilfering, but showing all good honesty, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.
 - **Phil. 1:27;** Doers of the word. (James 1:22)
 - 1 Cor. 9:24-27
 - That our walk would be a mirror, an outworking of our doctrine.
- **The Calling:** vocation; the glories and privileges of chapters 1-3.
 - 2 Thess. 1:11, Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power,
 - To actually live like Saints. Spirit filled.
 - That God would get glory in the church.
- **The Called:** The divine summons into salvation which God gives a sinner and all that follows on in sanctification & promise. (chp. 1-3)
 - That calling whose origin, nature and goal are heavenly. We have been called, summoned into salvation and made saints.
 - **Heb. 3:1,** Partakers of the heavenly calling,
 - Rom. 8:30, Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
 - 1 Cor. 1:23, 24; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
 - We were not called to be world-lings but saints. Our citizenship is in heaven. Phil. 3:20,
 - 2 Cor. 6:17, come out from among them.....

Verse 2

THE WORK:

- How is the “walk that is worthy” is worked/walked out?
- What does it look like to walk worthy of our calling?
- Why does the Spirit lead Paul to write these verses in response to the first 3 chapters?
- what are these exhortations, and where are they played out?
- Notice all 5 are “relational.” (5 number of grace)
- **Lowliness:** Every kind of lowliness. The esteeming of ourselves as small.
 - It was used to describe the Nile when in low stage, to know our own poverty and indebtedness.
 - **(Phil. 2:3)**
- **Gentleness/Meekness:** An inwrought grace of the soul; first toward God, A condition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, without disputing’s and exercises itself in the face of the brethren.
- **Longsuffering:** Expressing oneself in patience with respect to persons. A longsuffering person does not or is not easily provoked by those who seem to harm or offend him. **Bearing:** To hold up, to sustain, to bear with calmness and composure in difficult situations.
- **Love:** Agape. A love born in the heart by the Spirit of God. A love that loves without expecting repay or conditions. A supernatural love. (1 Cor. 13)

Verse 3:

- **Endeavoring:** being diligent, eager to maintain.
- All these directives are necessary if we are to live in community. Close community.
- To keep the unity of the Spirit.
 - Keep/guard it not make it. Guard and wrap everything around with peace. God’s peace.
 - It is the unity of the Spirit...

WOUNDED: THE APPLICATION/RECONCILIATION:

- What do we do when things go wrong? When saints get offended?
- What is the unpardonable sin? Mt. 6:14
- What is the goal in reconciliation?
- How do we handle these situations?
 - **To Gain:** **Matt. 18:15**
 - **To Edify:** 1 Cor. 14:26, 2 Cor. 12:19, Let all things be done unto edifying.
 - To the Glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31, 32. Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,

- **It is not about justifying myself, it is about building up the body, Gaining a brother, a sister.**
- **The view of walking worthy is set within a context where community life, close community life happens, where the potential for irritations and hurts, offences can arise.**
- **But oh how important for things to be done keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (the bond that is peace)**

Why then should we walk worth of our calling? Loving and forgiving one another?

That God would have His glory in the Church.

- **3:21; to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

Love ever gives. Forgives outlives. And ever stands with open hands. And while it lives, it gives. For this is love's prerogatives to give, and give, and give.