

“Walk Worthy”
Ephesians 4:1-6
3/5/23
Message 1
Special Communion Message

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Walk Worthy”

- **Big Concern I have had for a LONG TIME**

- **Over the many years, I Seen SO MANY divisions**

- Believer 37 years
- Serving in the church 32 years
- Part Time Staff 28 years
- Full Time staff 22 Years (Pastor)
- One of the Biggest Issue I have had to deal with in the church
 -
 - UNITY or should I say DIS-UNITY

- **Examples of DIS-UNITY**

- **Paint**
 - Color
- **Building Issues**
 - We need bigger BETTER - We NEED all the bells and whistle's
 - CCA Kitchen
- **Events**

- People upset we have a harvest night people upset we don't have a harvest night
- **Why are spending money on the Crusades (Outreaches)**
- **We Want the Money spent...**
- **Power Struggles**
 - My ministry is more important than yours
 - We don't want you in that ministry
 - Illustration
 - Senior Pastor fired from his church – graciously hired at another church only take fellowship list and start another church...
- **Consumer Mentality**
 - We want to BE Served
 - But we DON'T WANT to serve
 - The Poem; “Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, And Nobody”
 - This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.
 - There was an important job to be done and everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.
 - Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.
 - Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

- Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.
- It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done
- **At the CORE of DIS-UNITY**
 - We CAN BE a selfish bunch!!!
 - PRIDE
 - SIN
 - At the center of both the words sin and pride... “I”
 - This is a problem at EVERY Church that is ever been and will be a problem at every church that will be
 - What we need is a correct focus on what God has called us to
 - Love God / LOVE OTHERS
 - Die to Self / Live for others

• **Lot of Talk about Revival**

- **Define Terms – Revival**
 - Revival – Jesus Movement
 - Move of the Spirit
- **Go over briefly**
 - Asbury
 - Looked into it
 - Appears to be from the HS

- Jesus Revolution
 - Move of the Holy Spirit
 - Focus on The Word
 - Discipleship
 - **Show Video**
- My PRAYER for God's Church – REVIVAL
 - IT Begins with REPENTANCE

• **Communion Is all ABOUT REPENTANCE**

○ **Is all About...**

- 1st Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- 2nd Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- 3rd Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34
- 4th Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26

○ **Focus today is RECONCILE - UNITY**

▪ **What is Unity?**

- Based on Holy Spirit
- Based on His peace
- Based on the TRUTH of God's Word!!

○ The Fundamentals

- God as Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- The virgin birth and divine nature
 - The Death Burial & Resurrection of Jesus
 - We are not united with those outside of this truth!
- **We can't manufacture it!**
 - We simply need to walk worthy in it!
 - *Stedman, "Once we truly understand where our Christian unity comes from- that it is given by the Holy Spirit, not created by ourselves! Our behavior in the church will be transformed. We begin to realize that our job is not to create unity, but to live worthily of the unity of the Spirit that is already ours".*
 - Man - Made attempts to create unity
 - It is what we call the ecumenical movement!
 - They are saying all we need is love
 - That we all belong to the brotherhood of man and we must and need to find a way to become one!
 - We don't need Doctrine – All we need is love!
 - Will ALWAYS FAIL
- **Unity is not uniformity**
 - Unity comes from within
 - Uniformity from without!
 - Body of Christ is great in its differences
 - Only God can pull so many people from all over the world and create this unity!

- Celebrate it!
- Who wants to be at a church where we all act the same?...
- **We need UNITY in the Body of Christ**
 - Many different denominations
 - We can have differences on secondary Biblical issues
 - Eschatology – Pre, Med & Post-Tribulation
 - Calvinism or Arminianism
 - But if we agree on the Fundamentals – we are ONE
 - We NEED to STOP competing against each other and work together
 - Jesus said – The world would know us by our LOVE for each other (UNITY)

John 13:35 (NKJV)

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Psalm 133:1 (NKJV)

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

- How are we doing on loving Jesus and Loving each other

This Morning we will look at 2 POWERFUL Truth about UNITY and Walking Worthy

- The Exhortation To Unity vs. 1-3

- The Essentials To Unity vs. 4-6

The Exhortation To Unity vs. 1-3

- **First: The PRINCIPLES v. 1**

- **1st I Therefore v. 1a**

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

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

- **Therefore – What is it therefore!**

- Remember what we know about that word, every time we see it we need to ask why is it “therefore”

- The WEALTH we have IN CHRIST

- What Paul talks about in the first 3 chapters of this book

- Telling them how rich they are in Christ!
- Chosen by God before the foundations of the world!
- Adopted as sons of God!
- Redeemed, by the blood of Jesus!
- Forgiven of sin! Past present and future!
- Given wisdom from God!
- Sealed by the H.S.
- Guaranteed an inheritance!

- **2nd The Prisoner Of the Lord v. 1b**

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

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

▪ The prisoner of the Lord

- Make sure we see are circumstances right
 - Paul NOT a Prisoner of Rome, Nero
 - Not a VICTIM of bad circumstances
- Paul was a PRISONER of the Lord
 - He knew God was in charge
 - So – NO matter what the circumstances were –
 - Paul knew God was moving in them
 - He was in prison because that is where God wanted him to be at that time
 - So lets USE this for God's Glory

○ Ray Stedman said, "The result of Paul's viewpoint is that he does not fret about being imprisoned. He doesn't feel limited by his chains. If Jesus put these chains on him, then the chains can only be a tool for furthering God's purpose and accomplishing His will".

○ **3rd Walk worthy v. 1c**

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

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

▪ **1st Beseech**

- Greek: Parakaleō

- Means: Ask for earnestly, beg, plead –
 - To “beg” he is begging them walk worthy of the calling!!!

▪ 2nd Worthy

- Greek: Axiōs
- Means: Worthily, in a worthy way or manner –
 - Scales = Equal Weight – Given MUCH – NOW do MUCH
 - A balance = Walk what you TALK
 - Worthy means literally means praiseworthy
 - One’s calling and conduct should be in balance.
 - DOCTRINE MUST DEFINE DUTY

▪ 3rd Calling = Salvation

- We are His Kids – NOW ACT LIKE IT
- So walk and act like a child of God!
- We have Wealth and now we must walk in that wealth, we have doctrine now we must walk in that doctrine!!!!

• **Second: The PRACTICE of Unity v. 2**

- **1st Walk in Lowliness v. 2a**

Ephesians 4:2 (NKJV)

2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

▪ Humility

- Greek: Tapeinophrosynē
 - Means: Humility, humbleness, modesty
 - Humility is an awareness and acceptance of our fallenness and depravity
 - This emphasizes not “self - Esteem” but “Others Esteem”.
- **Sadly - PRIDE marks our lives**
 - John Wesley, observed that “neither the Roman 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.
 - In Greek culture, humility was thought of as a vice, to be practiced only by slaves
 - PRIDE: This is the case in our world today! I am going to get you before you get me, a sign of weakness, in the world!
 - It is not cool to think of oneself as less than another, we are to boast in our accomplishments!
 - We are to think that we are the greatest and that there is none better, and we call it Self - Esteem!
 - **We NEED Humility to Walk in UNITY**
 - God NOT ONLY tells us to be humble – HE demonstrated it!

Philippians 2:1–11 (NKJV)

1 *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,*
2 *fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

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.

- Set aside self for the sake of others
- *Thomas A Kempis, The Imitation of Christ, "If you wish to learn and appreciate something worthwhile, then love to be unknown and considered as nothing. Truly to know and despise self is the best and most perfect counsel. To think of oneself as nothing, and always to think well and highly of others is the best and most perfect wisdom. Wherefore, if you see another sin openly or commit a serious crime, do not consider yourself better, for you do not know how long you can remain in good estate. All men are frail, but you must admit that none is more frail than yourself."*
- A person who has TRULY Encounter God
 - Understands there is nothing to boast about!
 - It's all God!!!!
 - We will cry out like Isaiah! (Isaiah 6:5)

- And when we really understand who we are before God
- It will give us the humility to love others!
- **2nd Gentleness = Meekness v. 2b**

Ephesians 4:2 (NKJV)

2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

▪ **Gentleness = Meekness**

- Some have considered this word MEEKNESS to mean WEAKNESS!
 - This word in the KJV is meekness, and Meekness is not weakness!
 - It has been defined as power under control!
 - Meekness is bowing yourself to the will of God!!!!
 - The Bible calls meekness a willingness to stand and do the will of God regardless of the cost.
 - The attitude that submits to God's dealings without rebellion, and to man's unkindness without retaliation. It is best seen
- Examples
 - Moses was known as the meekest of all men (Num. 12:3)
 - Yet he got angry when Israel sinned against God (Ex. 32).
 - Christ was meek and humble in heart (Matt. 11:29)

- Yet He became angry because some Jews were using the temple as a place for thieves (Matt. 21:12-13).

- **Unity Requires Gentleness / Meekness**

- We stand for TRUTH from a position of strength
- God's Word is all the power we need

Romans 12:17–21 (NKJV)

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- **3rd Longsuffering = Patience v. 2c**

Ephesians 4:2 (NKJV)

2 with all lowliness and gentleness, **with longsuffering**, bearing with one another in love,

- **Longsuffering = Long - Tempered**

- The ability to endure discomfort without fighting back
 - Bearing up - "In love" – "Putting up with"
 - *Someone once said that 'patience' is "to wait without complaint."*

- We Christians are to be patient with others.

- **Chuck Smith: "You have to put up with me and I have to put up with, and I am not sure who has the biggest problem".**

- In the body of Christ
 - When we believe someone is slow to catch on
 - When we perceive things in a different way than someone else.
 - When people don't do what we hope or believe that should do
 - We need to be patient with them in the same way that the Lord is patient with all of us.
 - Unity Requires Patience
- **4th Bearing with one another in LOVE v. 2d**

Ephesians 4:2 (NKJV)

*2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, **bearing with one another in love,***

▪ **Unity Requires Loving Support**

- Bearing With –
 - Greek: Anechomai
 - Means: To hold up; to hold one's self erect and firm; to sustain, to bear, to endure
- Love
 - Greek: Agape
 - Means: Love LIKE God loves

▪ **We are IN A WAR together –**

- Let hold fast to God and Each Other

• **Third: The PURPOSE of Unity v. 3**

Ephesians 4:3 (NKJV)

3 *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

○ **1st Unity Requires Work - Endeavoring**

▪ **Endeavoring**

- Greek: Spoudazo
- Means: To hasten, make haste; to exert one's self, endeavour, give diligence; It speaks of a determined effort. It has the idea of exertion in it.
- It means to maintain; Guard, Zealous Effort, Great pains!

▪ **Spirit in the Bond of Peace**

- We are BOND together
- Special relationship

▪ **ENDEAVORING Does NOT come “Naturally” - It takes LOTS of work.**

- How to Endeavor and Maintain UNITY
 - **1st Lives are Committed and Submitted to God!**
 - Unity is destroyed when we stop being
 - Meek, Humble & Endeavoring
 - We must love Him, if we ever hope of loving each other! Keep GROWING
 - **2nd PUT on LOVE**

Colossians 3:12–17 (NKJV)

12 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- **3rd The Fruit of the Spirit evident in your life (Gal. 5:22-26)**

Galatians 5:22–26 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

- **4th Remember we are ALL under Construction! (Phil. 1:6)**

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

- **5th Do not Gossip! Do not tear believers apart!**

Galatians 5:15 (NKJV)

15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

- **6th Don't RUN at the first sign of trouble!**

- Remember Jesus prayed we would be one

- The cause of Christ is at stake!

John 17:21 (NKJV)

21 *that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

○ **7th Deal with Problems Correctly**

- Matthew 18

The Essentials To Unity vs. 4-6

• **Context: Now let look at the 7 truths that make us one**

- Put all the great theologians in one room and begin talking theology and there will fireworks!
- Begin talking about these 7 truths and you will find great unity
- **John Stott; “You can no more divide the church than you can the God head”**

• **First: One body v. 4**

Ephesians 4:4 (NKJV)

4 **There is one body** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

- **1st There is ONLY one CHURCH**
 - Whether Baptist, Methodist, Calvary Chapels
 - There is ONLY ONE church
 - ONE BODY (1 Corinthians 12)
 - Paul uses the physical body to explain a spiritual truth
 - We NEED EACH OTHER
 - Every PART must DO it's Share – or UNHEALTHY body

- **Second: One Spirit v. 4**

Ephesians 4:4 (NKJV)

4 *There is one body and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*

- **1st Baptism of the Spirit**

- Each one of us was baptized in the Spirit at the moment we said yes to Jesus (1 Cor. 12:13)
- The same Spirit indwells all of us

- **Third: One Hope v. 4**

Ephesians 4:4 (NKJV)

4 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling;*

- **1st We all have the same hope**

- Jesus
- His return we will see His Face and be with each other forever.

- **Fourth: One Lord v. 5**

Ephesians 4:5 (NKJV)

5 *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*

- Jesus is Lord of us all, head of the Body

- **Fifth: One Faith v. 5**

Ephesians 4:5 (NKJV)

5 *one Lord, **one faith**, one baptism;*

- Faith in Christ alone
 - There is one settled body of truth deposited by Christ in His church, and this is “the faith”

- Jude 1:3

- **Sixth: One Baptism v. 5**

Ephesians 4:5 (NKJV)
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

- Baptism into the body of Christ
 - At the moment we receive Jesus

- **Seventh: One God & Father v. 6**

Ephesians 4:6 (NKJV)
6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

- His Sovereignty / His presence
 - God is Above all, through all, and in you all
 - This means that God is transcendent.
 - He is above His creation
 - He is not dependent upon His creation.

Closing

- **Critical we HEED God's Word & Work on UNITY**

- **The Psalmist wrote...**

Psalm 133:1 (NKJV)
1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

- It's a good thing for us to get along with each other.

Psalm 133:2 (NKJV)

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

- Oil is always a picture of the Holy Spirit.
 - There is a connection between unity and the work and power of the Holy Spirit.
 - *Don't think that we're going to receive or operate in the power of the Holy Spirit when we can't get along with others.*

Psalm 133:3 (NKJV)

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

- Mount Hermon was in the far north.
- It is the snow and “dew” that waters and nourishes the entire land of Israel.
- Refreshing / Revival comes from unity

• **Question**

- Are you at odds with another believer?
- If So - I would imagine that you may be experiencing a drought of the Holy Spirit's work.
- Fix it right NOW –
 - REPENT
 - SEEK to Restore

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28

- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*