

The Worthy Walk

Living By The Call of Grace

Dr. Nicolas Ellen

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Ephesians 4:1–3 (NASB) “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

I. What have we been called to?

- a. We have been called to belong to God; chosen and adopted by the Father to be holy and blameless before Him (Eph. 1:4-5).
- b. We have been called to a union with Jesus Christ our Lord; made alive, raised, and seated with Christ; sharing His life and victory (Eph. 2:4-6).
- c. We have been called into One Body; reconciled with other believers as “one new man” in Christ (Eph. 2:14-16).
- d. We have been called to display God’s wisdom; the church exists to reveal God’s manifold wisdom to all creation (Eph. 3:8-11).

Summary: You have been called from death to life, from separation to adoption, from division to unity, from sin to sanctification, and from purposelessness to participation in God’s eternal plan.

II. What is the hope of our calling?

- a. We can expect that one day we will stand holy and blameless before God (Eph. 1:4).
- b. We can expect that one day we will share in the riches of God’s glory as His own possession (Eph. 1:13-14, 18).
- b. We can expect that one day we will dwell forever with Jesus Christ in Heavenly Places (Eph. 2:6-7).
- c. Because God Himself has sealed us with His Holy Spirit, we can live with absolute confidence that everything He has promised will surely come to pass. The Spirit is not merely a symbol of our security, He is the guarantee, the divine down payment of our inheritance. His indwelling presence assures us that God will finish what He began, that every promise of redemption will be fulfilled, and that we already belong to Him completely (Eph. 1:13–14; 4:30).

Summary: The hope of our calling is the confident assurance that God will complete what He began, perfecting us in holiness, granting us an eternal inheritance, and providing a place for us to dwell with Him forever.

III. How do we walk in a manner worthy of our calling?

- a. We are to walk in ***humility*** - having a right view of oneself before God and others; a readiness to place others before self; embracing the reality that we are servants of God as ambassadors to unbelievers and builders of believers.
- b. We are to walk in ***gentleness*** - strength under divine control; the disposition to respond to others with grace rather than force. Gentleness is not passivity, but **power directed by love**. It handles people according to what is biblically appropriate in that given moment; power is expressed in compassion, and truth delivered with tenderness.
- c. We are to walk in ***patience*** - to put up with people's sinful attitudes, preferences, idiosyncrasies for long periods of time without reacting in a sinfully angry manner from within and without, suffering well, reflecting the character of Christ with the attitudes, actions, preferences, issues, and sins of others for a long period of time.
- d. We are to walk ***bearing with one another*** - to endure or hold up under other people's faults; to restrain from retaliation, resentment, or walking away completely from others, but to continue to extend grace when it's difficult. Bearing with others does not mean ignoring the faults of others but working with individuals to deal with their faults according to what is biblically appropriate on a consistent basis instead of retaliating, resenting, or walking away from the person completely (Gal. 6:1-2).
- e. We are to walk in ***love*** - self-sacrificing devotion that seeks another's highest good of others according to what is biblically appropriate, regardless of cost or emotion.
- f. We are to walk in ***the bond of peace*** - to actively pursue whatever fosters harmony among believers since we share in union with Christ. By the Holy Spirit, we are already united to Christ and, therefore, to one another positionally; that union can never be broken. Yet the **function** of that union, our visible fellowship and cooperation can be hindered by disobedience. Thus, we preserve the function of our unity by walking in obedience to God and doing what is right in His sight toward one another.

Summary: The "worthy walk" is a life that mirrors God's character and preserves the unity the Spirit has already created.

IV. What are the implications of this calling, this hope, this walk?

- a. The church's unity is a **divine act whereby** believers share in the same Spirit, the same salvation, and the same peace purchased by Christ's cross, not a managerial achievement created by human effort; therefore, it must be diligently guarded through Spirit-driven obedience.
- b. Every act of humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another, love, and pursuing harmony within the church declares the triumph of divine wisdom over demonic division.
- c. Since the church does not produce unity, it protects what the Spirit produced, all relational breakdowns stem from human pride, not divine deficiency.

- d. By the fact that we have been placed together in Christ and made a new creation in Him, being unified in function is not optional; it's inherent to the call of being a Christian. **Therefore**, division among believers is a contradiction of the gospel's logic.
- e. The grace we have received from God, when rightly understood, should produce a community whose character and functional unity reflect the divine order of the coming kingdom within the present age.
- f. The grace we have received from God, when rightly understood, should produce a community of believers who are actively seeking to know Christ more deeply, grow to become like Christ more fully, and serve Christ more faithfully as we walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which each has been called.

Summary: God's grace has made us one, and our obedience enables us to live and function as one. Every expression of humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, love, and pursuit of harmony becomes a visible testimony that Christ's cross has triumphed over pride, hostility, and division. Therefore, believers must diligently guard this Spirit-given unity by continually walking in these attitudes and actions of obedience, so that the world may witness in us the wisdom and peace of the coming kingdom.

V. Given the nature of this insight, what should I consider about myself?

- a. Do I live each day with the awareness that I have been chosen, adopted, and united with Christ or do I still live as though I belong to myself?
- b. In what ways does my treatment of other believers demonstrate or deny the gospel's logic of unity?
- c. How have I contributed to peace or tension in my church recently?
- d. In correction or conflict, do others experience the compassion of Christ or the force of my will?
- e. What attitudes, desires, or habits in me most often disrupt the peace God has already established through His Spirit and what would repentance look like in those areas?
- f. How can I intentionally display the character of Christ this week through humility, gentleness, patience, and love so that my relationships in the church and other areas become a visible reflection of the gospel I profess?

Summary: Because we have been chosen, adopted, and united with Christ, we must ask ourselves if we are willing to reflect that reality by replacing pride and self-will with Spirit-empowered humility and love that preserve the unity He has created.