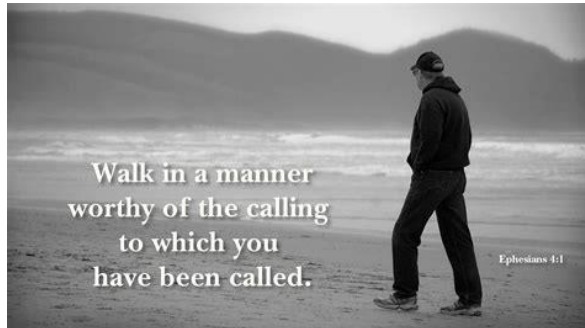


20210408 Ephesians 4 Part 1 Walk in a Worthy Manner



10 Ephesians 4 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6 NASB)

Remember before Paul wrote that he was writing from prison. Remember he said that he was a prisoner of Jesus. Never did he consider himself a prisoner of Rome. He realized that God was sovereign in his life. Now he's talking to the church body talking about their calling. He is talking about not only their calling, but our calling as well. We each have a calling unto which we've been called. I preach often that God has a purpose, a place, and a plan for each of us. The Bible tells us that we have a purpose.

We can get very lost when we feel no purpose. The world teaches that life is meaningless. The world teaches that there is no higher purpose to life other than just being as happy as you can be. The world teaches that you're just a random result of some evolutionary biology. But that is an empty way to live life. The reality is that as believers we have a purpose. We have a reason to be. We have a reason to get up in the morning so to speak. We are each called in scripture to be conformed to the image of Christ. That means we are called to reflect or be formed with Jesus. Teacher Larry Lengyel describes it by saying that if we were jello we need to be formed in a container that is shaped like Jesus. I suppose that is a pretty good explanation.

This is Our Calling – Being Conformed to the Image of Christ. EVERY SINGLE CHRISTIAN HAS A CALLING. Our calling is to reflect the heart of Jesus. This can only be done by the power of God. It is the Holy Spirit that works in us and through us to reflect Jesus.

Paul explains this to the church in Rome (Romans 8:29) *"²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."*

So how do we become conformed to Jesus. Paul tells us right here in this passage.

So if this is our calling, what does it mean to “walk worthy” of that calling.(your walk matches your talk and you are what you seem to be. Your outsides reflect what your insides are.) That means to walk in a way that is in agreement with that calling. The way we live needs to line up with being like Christ. Paul says we do that by exercising humility, gentleness, patience, and eagerness to maintain unity.

Humility - Remember what I’ve said, “Humility is not humiliation.” It is how we see ourselves in light of God and His word. Humility is restraint of the flesh. It is letting God show me who I really am instead of boasting in myself. He is God and I am me. He is perfect and I am not. With true godly humility we are willing to submit our lives, our attitudes, and our passions to His will. So true godly humility starts when we see things as they really are and we realise that God is the Creator of the universe and He is the objective standard by which all is measured. Only God has a way to make me feel totally important but yet sort of insignificant at the same time. Oh how wonderful and freeing it is when we realize that we don’t need to “toot our own horn” to be something and to bring attention to ourselves.

One thing that really helps us to have the property humility is in reading God’s Word. By reading the Word and through the operation of the Holy Spirit, I am able to change how I see myself and how I see others. When I see myself as I am, I see others like they are and I treat them with a compassion and understanding that I

Gentleness – What is gentleness? Gentleness, also translated “meekness”, and it does not mean weakness. It means being able to suffer hurt by others without getting angry. It’s not gentleness when we say, “I don’t want you in my life any more.” Or something like, “I hope we can still be friends after you’ve said this to me or done this to me.” Gentleness is when you don’t cuss or yell at people that cut you off in traffic. GET OVER IT. They can’t hear you anyway. It means that I can be hurt by you and somehow through the power of the Holy Spirit I can still love you and forgive you and I choose not to respond out of bitterness and anger. Rather, it involves humility and thankfulness toward God. It involves polite restrained behavior when we are dealing with others. We’ve all heard that our first reaction is often out of our flesh. Gentleness is what comes from restraining oneself to respond to an offense or something else. The opposites of gentleness would include anger, self-aggrandizing behavior or conversation, and the desire to get pay-back when someone has done you wrong.

Patience – Paul then says that we walk worthy when we are patient. What does it mean exactly to be patient? It means you don’t have a short fuse. It is how we respond when we see other people fail or they get under our skin. It is being able to endure with your temper intact. You have a very long fuse. The Greek language uses two words to mean

patience. One is *hupomone* which means “remaining under” kind of like being able to be under a heavy load or a burden. That means you can just put up with a whole lot. The other is *Makrothumia* which is a combination of two words *Makros* (long) and *thumos* (passion or temper). That’s that idea of a long fuse. Your passion/temper is long in being triggered. We really can’t be either of these without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Keeping the Unity of the Spirit in a Bond of Peace – Lastly Paul talks about unity of the Spirit. What we’re talking about is that there is a work that the Holy Spirit has done to join us to one another. We may be different from each other. We may be serving in different places, but if we have trusted in Christ we are ONE CHURCH. I mean CHURCH with a capital “C”. You know, we forget how important unity is to God. In fact the Shemah itself calls God unity. “Hear oh Israel, the Lord your God is ONE (unity)”. David writes centuries after the event of how wonderful it is when brothers dwell together in unity. This isn’t just talking about Christians in one church (one assembly).

133 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brothers to live together in unity!
² It is like the precious oil on the head,
Running down upon the beard,
As on Aaron’s beard,
The oil which ran down upon the edge of his robes.
³ It is like the dew of Hermon
Coming down upon the mountains of Zion;
For the LORD commanded the blessing there—life forever.

So, when you don’t know your calling, you won’t know how to live your live WORTHY – IN LINE WITH that calling. When you do these things, you are walking in a manner worthy of your calling.

People will see the humility, the gentleness, the patience, and the preservation of unity. So where are we today? We’ve not done this very well. This is a work of the Holy Spirit. And when it is, it is a beautiful thing. It is “like the precious oil on the head running down the beard as on Aaron’s beard, the oil that ran down upon the edge of his robes.”