

Walking Worthy

Ephesians 4:1-7



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FOCAL Read Responsively Ephesians 4:1-7 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, (2) **With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love;** (3) Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4) **There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;** (5) One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) **One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.** (7) But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

1. The Christian way of life is a *walk*, and a *calling* from Infinite God. (verse 1)

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you:

**Walk Worthy
Of the Vocation
Wherewith You Are Called**

We who believe are saved by faith in Christ. The Scripture says:

Titus 3:5-7 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (6) Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; (7) That being justified by

his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

And

2 Timothy 1:8b-9 "... according to the power of God; [9] Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began"

We do not save ourselves – God saves us, He WASHES us, He RENEWS us, He MAKES US HEIRS of the Kingdom. We who believe are the WORK of God. As God's Work, we are responsible to:

Walk Worthy – For I Belong To God

We are to understand that Christianity is

Of The Vocation - I Must Live My Life Within My Calling And Within My Church

And finally, as Christians we are to know

Wherewith You Are Called – WHO Called Me Into This Life

Let's look at these three points.

1. I Am To Walk Worthy, For I Belong To God

FOCAL Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

The Christian must recognize that he or she is not just *anybody* – if you are saved, you are a Child of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. You belong to God – your eternal inheritance is in God's Heaven, not on this earth. You are royalty, Kings and Priests before the Eternal YAHWEH. Why is this? Our text tells us in verse 2:

FOCAL Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love;

The uniqueness of Christianity is that God has not just saved you, but He has saved all of the *brothers and sisters* who are with you. The Church is a *unified Body of Blood Bought redeemed people, all Children of the King*. The same Blood that saved you from eternal damnation:

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; (19) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and

without spot:

You were not redeemed with **corruptible things**, with **temporal things**, with **things that have not the stamp of eternity on them**.

2. You were not redeemed with any of the works of your own hands. You were redeemed from sure and certain judgment by God's hand, a salvation that neither you nor I deserved.

We were low – very low – so low in sin that God had to give up His Only Begotten Son for us. How dare we be prideful now, for we have nothing to be proud of! We dare not raise our heads above those of our brethren, for we were one and all lost until Jesus found me. Like the song says:

**I was lost, but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
threw his loving arms around me,
back into the narrow way.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.¹**

Walking worthy means two things for the Christian. First of all, we must *never* forget our roots, forget from

¹ Words: Francis H. Rowley, 1886: The original lyrics began, “Can’t you sing the wondrous story...” Ira Sankey changed them before publishing the song in the 1887 edition of his Sacred Songs and Solos. Music: Peter P. Bilhorn, 1886. (cyberhymnal.org)

whence we came. We were *not* good people who strayed away, that Jesus came and brought back. We were sinners, are sinners, and will ever be sinners. If we must brag, let us brag on our *infirmities and on our weaknesses*, as the Apostle did:

2 Corinthians 11:29-30 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? (30) If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

When God took the Apostle Paul to Heaven, and showed him great things that no one this side of the veil had ever seen, even then he said:

2 Corinthians 12:5-6 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. (6) For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but [now] I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me [to be], or [that] he heareth of me.

3. How foolish to brag or hold oneself above another! Walking worthy means *remembering from whence you came*.

This is why we must all walk

FOCAL Ephesians 4:2 **With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love;**

a *humble* walk, a *patient* walk, a *careful* walk, a *loving* walk. Satan will come into a Church and have members at one another's throats before long when pride enters in. The Scripture says:

Proverbs 16:18-19 **Pride [goeth] before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. (19) Better [it is to be] of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.**

If you are a Christian, you were lost and undone before Jesus found you and redeemed you. Your sins caused Him to cry out just as much as my sins did. **C.H. Spurgeon** said:

“Pride can live upon a dunghill as well as upon a throne; but God will hide pride from us, till, if we look about, we cannot find it, and cannot see any reason for being proud. I pray God to hide from all of us self-righteous pride, and self-seeking pride, and self-glorifying pride, to lay us low at the foot of the cross. Whenever I find anybody saying, "I have attained to a perfectly sanctified life, I have no sinful propensities, I, I, I, I" —. Ah, yes! if God had really dealt with you, he would have clipped your I's down. They will not be half so straight in the back, and so

tall, when God takes you in hand.”²

You cannot walk worthy as a Christian while walking haughty and prideful. But,

4. The *worthy walk* requires that we remember **we are no longer as we once were**. If a Christian, then you are of Royal Blood. If a Christian, you are a Priest before God.

FOCAL Ephesians 4:3 **Endeavoring³ to keep the unity⁴ of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Someone said some time ago “You can't please everyone” - this is so true! When the Word of God is preached anywhere some smile and others scowl, some relax and others flinch. People will not always be satisfied with all that you do. This is why our text says **endeavoring**, literally **keep on making every effort to guard the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**. Some people will not be pleased no matter what you do. If so, then so be it! Even Jesus did not please everyone.

5. However, walking worthy means just this: if the

2 Sermon *A Hard Case*, February 18, 1886, by C. H. SPURGEON (1834-1892)

3 Present Active Participle of G4704, σπουδάζω, spoudazō, *spoo-dad'-zo*, From G4710; to *use speed*, that is, to *make effort, be prompt or earnest*: - do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study – keep on making every effort

4 henotes [hen-ot-ace'] from heis; oneness, i.e. (figuratively) unanimity: - unity

peace is to be broken, then it will not be I who does so!

This is emphasized elsewhere in the Scripture:

Romans 12:18-21 **If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.**

(19) Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. (20) Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. (21) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

If it be possible, as much as is within your power, live peaceably. Let God take care of those who will be your enemies. He will avenge – OH, HOW HE WILL AVENGE! But do not get in God's way by trying to avenge yourselves. He Who causes every heart to beat can stop your heart from beating, too! Do not worry about the *fool who will not follow*, just take care that *you do not become the fool!* God saved you, and God will take care of what He saved. Walk worthy – you belong to Him, if you have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ.

2. I Must Live My Life Within My Calling And Within My Church

FOCAL Ephesians 4:1 **I therefore, the prisoner of**

the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation⁵ **wherewith ye are called**

6. Christianity is a unified **calling and a vocation**. It is a *way of life*. It is a *work in progress*, as well as a *stewardship* from God.

Philippians 1:6 **"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"**

God began a work in you on the day that He saved you. He called you to *partner with Him* in this great Body of Christ. Look at verses 4-6:

FOCAL Ephesians 4:4-6 **There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; (5) One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**

Throughout these three verses you see the word ONE repeated over and over again. When the Scripture repeats a word, God expects us to *pay attention* to the pattern. *Seven times* the word ONE is repeated. When God called you into salvation, He did not call you *by yourself* – He called you into a *great company of believers, the Family*

⁵ G2821, κλήσις, klēsis, *klay'-sis*, From a shorter form of G2564; an *invitation* (figuratively): - calling.

of God, the Church. You cannot do your job, your stewardship, your calling apart from the Church that God has placed you. You cannot satisfy God nor yourselves apart from the Church that God has placed you. Look at verse 4:

There is one body and one Spirit

What **body** is the Scripture speaking of? The next time we see the phrases **one Spirit** and **one body** used together in the Scripture is in

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also [is] Christ. (13) For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (14) For the body is not one member, but many.

7. The Church is the Body of Christ. The Christian is called into, first of all, **one Body by one Spirit**. Saved by Grace, you are saved to serve.

You serve by finding your place *within this Body of Christ, the Church*. The Bible makes it plain that Christ is Head of not only the *individual Christian*, but also of *the Church*:

Ephesians 5:23 ... Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body.

The gates of hell cannot *prevail* against the Church united in Christ:

Matthew 16:18 ... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

This is why the *Great Commission* of

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.

Was given to the Church. The Church is a Body, a unit, saved by the Blood of God:

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Bound together by ONE:

**One Body
One Spirit
One Hope
One Lord
One Faith
One Baptism
One God and Father of all**

You are called *together as one* to serve God our Father. Some of you may be thinking, “What does it matter if I am not in one accord with this body?” Think about it this way – have you never met someone who had lost the use of a limb or a function of the human body. Did you ever hear that person *bleat* the loss of that part? No, and you will not. To Christ every member of this Body has purpose, function, calling, a job to do – do it with all your hearts! Do not fool yourself into believing that God will not hold you accountable. You are accountable, and I am accountable Which bring us to the last point:

3. WHO Called Me Into This Life?

FOCAL Ephesians 4:6 **One God and Father of all, who is above⁶ all, and through all,**

6 G1909, ἐπί, epi, ep-ee', A primary preposition properly meaning *superimposition* (of time, place, order, etc.), as a relation of *distribution* [with the genitive case], that is, *over, upon*, etc.; of *rest* (with the dative case) *at, on*, etc.; of *direction* (with the accusative case) *towards, upon*, etc.: - about (the times), above, after, against, among, as long as (touching), at, beside, X have charge of, (be-, [where-]) fore, in (a place, as much as, the time of, -to), (because) of, (up-) on (behalf of) over, (by, for) the space of, through (-out), (un-) to (-ward), with. In compounds it retains essentially the same import, *at, upon*, etc. (literally or figuratively).

and in you all.

WHO called me into the Life of Christ? WHO saved me, and is at work in my life? He is **One God and Father of all**. The Bible says three things about God in this passage.

a. He is **above all**. God is above all, or **over all**. God the Father is *preeminent*, the Ruler of all creation. Since God is over all we are promised ..

Romans 10:11-13 For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (12) For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. (13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

that whosoever calls upon His Name shall be saved. He **over all** in the area of salvation. Call on Jesus, and you *will* be saved! Satan cannot stop this, nor can any angel from Heaven nor hell. It is His promise - call and be saved.

God is **over all** circumstances. He is preeminent. Are you in suffering? Praise Him. Are you in pain? Praise Him!

**Praise Him, Praise Him,
Tell of His excellent greatness;
Praise Him, Praise Him,**

Ever in joyful song!

When in deepest distress that old saint **Job** said:

Job 19:25-27 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: (26) And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: (27) Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

When **Sarah** cried out, for she had no children, the **God Who is over all** said:

Genesis 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

When **Lazarus** died, Jesus told **Martha**:

John 11:23 Thy brother shall rise again.

Though Martha looked to some future day, expecting his resurrection at the end of time, Jesus quickly reminded her:

John 11:25-26 ... I am the resurrection, and

the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: (26) And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

8. God is **above all** - above all circumstances, above all suffering, and, Dearly Beloved, above us all! The job of the Christian is not to question God, but to believe and obey.

Would God abandon His fellow workers? Would He leave a field that He had planted for the weeds to overcome? Would God make *half a building*, leaving the roof open to the rain and the wind? No, My Beloved, No! The Scripture says that

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

b.

9. God is **through all**. God is not only *preeminent*, but He also *permeates or saturates* those Whom He has saved.

His light is meant to shine through this Church, and will shine, for He has said:

Matthew 5:14-16 **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. (15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

God has not said you *might* be the Light of the world - He has said you are the Light of the world. Focus on Him, follow Him, and *be* what you are designed *to be*!

c. Finally, God is **in you all**. The Scripture tells us:

Romans 8:9-11 **But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (10) And if Christ [be] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin; but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness. (11) But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**

10. If God lives inside of you, if you are saved by faith, then He is with you no matter what may come.

and tell others about this glorious salvation, this wondrous gift from God. I have read the back of the Book and I can tell you, we *will triumph*. Trust Him, believe Him, obey Him, and the victory is yours.

May God Bless the reading and preaching of this Precious Text.

Be about your Father's business! Do as Jesus has said,