Classen Blvd. Baptist Church

SONday morning

May 19, 2024

CALL to PRAYER -

Colossians 1:9-10

Ephesians 4:1-3 - The Worthy Walk

Intro - We are at the half way point in Ephesians. It can be read in 20 minutes, but we have had 20 sermons...so far. Chapter 4 starts the 2nd half which is really the 2nd step. 1-3 is full of deep, rich doctrine & theology. 1-3 focuses on practical doctrine (step 1). 4-6 is the practical application from the practical doctrine (step 2). 1-3 is what we are to *believe* and 4-6 is how we are to *behave*. Both belief & behavior are necessary for a balanced Christian walk. Our beliefs dictate our behavior. *Right beliefs* inform/lead to/bring/include *right behavior*. If your kind of belief doesn't improve your behavior, then you have the wrong kind of belief. *Belief & Behavior* are linked... and they are very much linked in Ephesians. The transition from the 1st half to the 2nd half could be described as going from *Step 1 to Step 2*. Think of it is as a gait, a walk...one step that follows the other. Ephesians calls us to a *Christian walk* not to a *Christian hop*. When my son broke his leg earlier this year, he hopped around our house for months...and he was thrilled to be able to walk with both legs. Christians are not to just hop around on one leg (belief or behavior) we are to walk with both. Ephesians 4 begins by calling us not just to walk but to have a worthy walk. We will note today that we are *CALLED TO WALK WORTHY* and also *HOW TO WALK WORTHY*.

CALLED TO WALK WORTHY

- Notice the circumstances of *"the walk."*
 - The circumstances vary from person to person Paul's circumstance was prison.

4:1

- o 1 Cor. 7:20-24
 - Whatever circumstance you find yourself in is one which God has placed you.
 - You are to "*walk*" in that circumstance in a worthy way.
- Let's get some definitions.

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- Walk = a description of how a person goes about life. Daily character/conduct
 - Psalm 1:1-2 Eph. 4:17-18 Eph. 5:8, 15
- Calling = God's sovereign & gracious drawing of a sinner to Himself in salvation
 - Rom. 8:30 CALLING is one link in the golden chain of salvation.
 - 2 Tim. 1:9 CALLING is part of our salvation and apart from our works.
 - 2 Peter 1:10 CALLING is linked to election and God's choice of us. (2 Thess. 2:13-14)
- Our calling should impact our walking.
 - We have called with a holy calling which should lead to a holy walking.
 - Worthy walking is also something we are called to 4:1
 - My son-in-law to his 2 year old *"You are a Lunsford and Lunsford's don't whine."*
 - He was calling his daughter to *act like a Lunsford* for she is a Lunsford.
- We are called by God to be Christians, so we are act like Christians.
- Christians are to encourage Christians to act like Christians. 1 Thess. 2:11-12
 - Heb. 10:23-24
 - Encourage a steadfast unwavering confession.
 Beliefs
 - Encourage (spur/cattle prod) a holy conduct.
 Behavior

HOW TO WALK WORTHY

- > Paul lists 5 things to begin the 2nd half which start the 2nd step of walking worthy
 - o 4:2-3 humility, gentleness, patience, tolerant love, preserving unity
 - These Christian virtues are *Step 2* of a godly gait/worthy walk.
 - We are to believe Christian things (1-3) now... behave in a Christian way (4-6)
- ➢ <u>Humility</u> (lowliness)
 - Humility is the first step in Christian virtue -
 - James 4:6 Is. 66:2b conversion will humble you Matt. 18:3-4
 - To be humble is to make yourself low and put yourself last.
 - Phil. 2:3-8
 - Pride is the original sin. When God saves a sinner, He graces him with humility.
 Matt. 5:3 self-denial & self-abasement are basics Mark 8:34-35
 - *"Humility is an ingredient in all spiritual blessing. Just as sin has its root in pride, every virtue has its root in humility."* (J. MacArthur)
 - Our society has the unholy designation of "*Pride Month*." (that is how the world walks)
 - Every month is "*Humility Month*" for the Christian.
 - To walk worthy we must walk in humility. A holy walk is a humble walk (Micah 6:8)
- ▹ <u>Gentleness</u>

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- o Matt. 5:5
- To be meek is to not be rash, reactionary, and out of control (a broken horse)
 - Gentleness & meekness are a bridle placed on our power & passion
- $\circ \quad \mbox{To be self-controlled}.....\mbox{God controlled}.$

(longsuffering)

(meekness)

- Matt. 11:29-30
- A father plays with his child gently but defends his child with full strength.
- > <u>Patience</u>
 - Patience is a godly characteristic because God is patient.
 - God is so patient with us. History is a testimony of God's patience.
 - 2 Peter 3:9, 15 1 Tim. 1:15-16

4:3

- \circ Love is patient $^{(1 \, Cor. \, 13:4)}$ and we are to walk in love $^{(Eph. \, 5:2)}$
- <u>Tolerant Love</u> (forbearance)
 - Love covers a multitude of sins 1 Peter 4:8 (love puts up with a lot endures all things)
 - Tolerant love is not being a doormat but it is being a donkey that is willing to carry a heavy load piled on it by another. 1 Cor. 13:7
 - God is slow to anger and "*puts up with a lot*"....so should we if we are to walk worthy
- Preserving Unity
 - Unity is something the Spirit brings...we can't make it, but we are to preserve it
 - God made His people one people, and we are to protect that peace.
- > These virtues are the 2^{nd} step in the worthy walk and how we are to walk worthy.
 - We are to walk with both feet walk as Christians, not hop as Christians.
 - Both BELIEF and BEHAVIOR must be engaged for a worthy walk
 - Col. 3:12-15
 - God has called us to be Christians....that is who we are...
 - We are to believe like Christian and act like Christians. Gal. 5:22-25