

Ephesians 4:1-3

As we continue to study the book of Ephesians, we begin to see that Paul is giving the church there a lesson in “How a Believer Should Act”. In chapter 4 he breaks it up into several parts. We first are challenged in our relationships to each other, the church, spiritual gifts, and our former life. We will look at all of these as to how they relate to us today and how Paul’s admonition and counsel gives us hope and encouragement for today.

1. ***Walk in a manner worthy – vs. 1*** – What does Paul really mean here? To walk in a manner worthy. Worthy of what? He was in prison so much of the time and beaten, ship wrecked among other things that most people would not see him as worthy of much. But Paul is speaking here about his worth to the “calling that God has called him to”. What has God called you to? Are you worthy of that calling? Have you been faithful to what He has asked you to do? Do you continue to see out what that calling is and how it can further God’s Kingdom? What are you doing about your calling? Do you even know what your calling is? Never give up.
2. ***How do we walk worthy – vs. 2-3*** – Here Paul gives us 7 ways in which we can “walk” or “live” in order to ensure that we are worthy of our calling. Look at these. It isn’t easy to do any of these, but we are commanded to do it. We must live
 - a. ***With all humility*** – It is interesting that Paul begins his list with a command to be humble. We lose all credibility when we become arrogant and promote a sense of superiority. If we are to develop relationships we must do so understanding our own shortcomings and failures. We are flawed humans as well.
 - b. ***With all gentleness*** – My mother was a very gentle woman. It is a trait that we all should strive to have. It is the grace and mercy side of any relationship. We can say most anything to someone if it is done with gentleness and love. It means being sensitive to the needs of others while standing firm on the truth of the word of God.
 - c. ***With patience*** – I don’t like this word because in order to have patience, you must be put into a situation to exercise it. That is tough. However, Paul uses this word several times when encouraging us to be Christ like. We must have and exercise patience with others, just as we want them to have that with us.
 - d. ***Showing forbearance*** – This is a word that we do not use very often any more. It is the notion that we need to “endure” if necessary the little things in others and life’s situations that may annoy us, but have no eternal consequences. We just can’t let the little things destroy relationships and yet that is what most often does.

- e. ***In love*** – Love is a strong word. It is a word that we all too often throw around without any regard to its meaning or its consequences. We say to people we just meet, “I love ya”, but seldom tell our family we love them. We use it as a “test” to see how someone feels about us before we commit to how we feel about them. I think we abuse the word more than we use the word.
- f. ***Being diligent*** – I find that all too often we as a society do not place enough emphasis on diligence. We seem to have the attitude that “close enough is good enough”. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are to be faithful and diligent in everything we do, say and think. Why is it so important to pay attention to these things? The bible says that “whatever a person thinks, that what they are”. (My paraphrase) So if you think close enough is good enough, you will act that way. You will never be at the top or the best. You will never push yourself that little bit extra to set yourself apart. God is never satisfied with “close enough”. It won’t get you into heaven and it won’t keep you out of hell.
- g. ***Preserving unity*** – Do all you can to be kind to one another. Jesus said, “You will know they are my disciples by their love for one another”. Is that true of you. I think this group has incredible love for each other. We pray for other’s needs, care for them and do the things that require unity. But what about all of your relationships? Are there any that need attention? Some that need working on? Do let unity be broken because of petty differences.