

# Sermon Notes

## An Individual, Worthy Walk

*Ephesians 4:1-16*

### Overview

*When Jesus was on earth, how did the kingdom of God advance?* It was through His ministry.

*Now that Jesus has ascended, how does the kingdom of God advance?* It is through His church's ministry.

When we think of "the church", how does the church advance the kingdom? Is it all at once with everyone doing the same thing?

No. It is all of the church members doing their part to build the church.

### In Depth

Some examples of team success:

- Jenny Thompson, Olympic Swimmer
- A Surgery Team

Much like team events, or a surgery team, the church is also a team. For us to advance the kingdom of God, there are things that, as individuals, we must do in order to ensure the church moves on.

So, I invite you to turn in God's Word to the book of Ephesians chapter 4 as we prepare to look at '**An Individual, Worthy Walk**'.

### *What is a 'Worthy Walk'?*

We, as believers, are beseeched, or charged with walking in such a way, we are worthy of the position God called us to.

The walk spoken of here is much more than a physical walk. It is the way we conduct ourselves that is seen by others.

So to have a 'worthy walk', one's conduct must express the teachings found in the Word of God, in order to please the Lord.

Paul explains that we are to walk with 3 characteristics:

- Lowliness (Humility)
- Meekness (Gentleness)
- Longsuffering (Patience)

A worthy walk is a walk made up of two paths that lead to one destination.

### *1. A Path of Unity* (v. 3-6)

Paul explains, in verse 3, that we should walk in a way that is devoted, or dedicated, to keeping the unity between us and the Holy Spirit.

As the Ephesians would walk in harmony with the Holy Spirit, they would also be walking in harmony with each other, as the Spirit would guide them into unity with each other.

In verses 4-6, Paul begins to explain why the believers should walk in unity with each other by listing 7 unified things:

- One Body (v. 4)
- One Spirit (v. 4)
- One Hope (v. 4)
- One Lord (v. 5)
- One Faith (v. 5)
- One Baptism (v. 5)
- One God (v. 6)

## 2. *A Path of Variety* (v. 7-11)

Paul, in verse 7, states that every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. The grace here is in reference to God giving us something that we do not deserve, not salvation grace and that can be seen in the 'us'.

Since, Paul is writing to the Ephesian church, he is writing to church members, meaning saved and baptized believers. This grace is also given in accordance to the *measure of the gif of Christ*.

In order for the Ephesians to serve in the church, God gave them grace according to the measure, or giving ability of Christ. What Christ gave the Ephesian believers was enough to enable them to serve in the local church.

## *Side Note: The Journey of Christ* (v. 8-10)

Verse 8-10 explain to the readers how the gifts mentioned in verse 11 (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers) came to be with us.

1. His Death
2. His Descension
3. His Ascension

After explaining the Journey of Christ, he lists 4 positions

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Evangelists
- Pastors

## 3. *A Destination of Maturity* (v. 12-16)

The purpose of a worthy walk is threefold:

1. That Believers be Equipped (v. 12)
2. That Believers be Mature (v. 13)
3. That Believers be Settled (v. 14-16)

A settled believer is a believer that has grown from immaturity to maturity and is now ready to build up the church in order to bring glory to God.

## **Conclusion**

Are you walking a worthy walk?

Are you advancing the kingdom by building the church with the gifts God has given you?



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