

“The Worthy Walk” – Part III

Ephesians 4:1-6

Intro:

Who I am... who I really am, is revealed by my attitudes.

Eph. 1-3, who I am *in-Christ*, my position as a believer, a follower of Christ...

In-Christ, I am: Chosen, blessed with every spiritual blessing, made holy and blameless, adopted, purchased out of the market place (no longer slaves), redeemed, forgiven, I have an inheritance, I am sealed with the Holy Spirit, I am seated in the heavenly realms, taken from death to life, once far off, but now brought near, no longer at war with God, because Jesus came to me with the message of peace, I can be filled with all the fullness of God ... **ALL OF THAT AND MORE!**

Chapter 4, the exhortation, changes a little, because Paul is no longer talking about positional truth – my position before God – he begins to talk about practical truth.

So, Paul says, “*I beg you... that you would walk in a manner that is worthy of that high, exalted position.*”

The word “*worthy*” comes from a word whose root in the Greek means – to _____ *the* _____.

Paul's saying, "I would like your manner of living, your everyday life, to be equal with that high and lofty position. Make your practice, *your way*, parallel with your position (who you are) *in-Christ*."

The question we have to ask is, "**How?**"

"Here's how you walk a worthy walk... it begins with this, be completely _____."

1 Peter 5:6, "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God and He will lift you up, He will exalt you.*"

The second characteristic that Paul gives to us – "*be completely gentle*". Humility results in meekness... we're going to see that there is a progression here.

- Gentle, meek, a soothing medicine, a gentle breeze, unwavering, without hypocrisy, able to fight the good fight of faith, power under control.

The ultimate end of my individual walk with Jesus Christ, my individual worthy walk – *having all these characteristics* – as they begin to be functional in my life the ultimate end goal is unity in the Body of Christ... being diligent to preserve the unity.

God's primary concern for the Church of Jesus Christ is that

_____ .

Positionally, believers in Jesus Christ are one.

The problem that Paul is addressing in **Eph. 4:3**, is that even though *positionally* that's true, the problem is too often *practically* we never see it.

One of the things we're learning in the **book of Ephesians** is that this unity in the Church is the single most effective manifestation of Christ, *through the Church*, in the world. The Church is *the* Body of Christ! Not just *a* body (like a group, or a club), but *the* Body of Christ. We are the manifestation of Christ in the world, and the best way we do that is through unity... our love for each other.

- But there's a major challenge to this *practical* unity –

The question we have to ask then is, “How do we get that unity?”

The miracle of supernatural unity is taking people who are different... *worlds apart*... and in the midst of all those differences, they love each other, they care about each other – that's the kind of unity that causes the world sit up and take notice!

The kind of unity we're talking about is a kind of unity that takes a Jew and a Gentile (**Ephesians 2**) and not only makes them *positionally* one, this kind of unity is the kind it takes a Jew and Gentile and makes them love each other, and care about each other, and be involved in each other's lives.

We can't just talk about unity as positional unity... *it's got to be practiced!* A supernatural unity and love for one another – brought about through people how are completely humble, and gentle, and patient, and who bear with one another in love.

The question is how? What would it take... in our church, in our lives – that anyone can walk in the door of our church and feel *right now* the warmth and the love, and not only just right now, but consistently through their lives?

Only one thing can make a church manifest Christ. Only one thing can stimulate people to meet the needs of other people. Only one thing can promote fellowship that reaches out beyond my immediate friends. That one thing is a change of heart. It takes a change of attitude.

Application: