

## Walk in A Worthy Manner

### Ephesians 4:1-6

#### 1. **A Command to Walk in a Worthy Manner** (v.1)

God has called Jews and gentiles from before the world was created (Eph. 1:4) into the one new person of the body of Christ (Eph. 2:15) and Paul has prayed that the church will experience the love of Christ (Eph. 3:16-19). Now Paul now exhorts them to live consistently with what Christ has done for them and in them.

#### 2. **A Description of Walking in a Worthy Manner** (v.2)

The Christian is to live after the attitude and actions of Jesus Christ (cf. Phil 2:3; Col. 3:12). Though the sinful world does not esteem humility, it is a virtue that God highly values (1 Pet. 5:5; cf. Ps. 25:8,9, 12). Gentleness is not weakness (Matt. 11:29; cf. John 2:14-16; Luke 19:45-46), it is power that one has under self-control and is important in Christian faithfulness (Gal. 5:23; Col. 3:12; 1 Pet. 3:15). Godly patience is not merely waiting, but endurance. And that endurance is often in the midst of being subjected to grief or provocation where, though you are able to avenge yourself, you remain self-restrained (cf. Rom. 2:4; 9:22; 1 Pet. 3:20). Tolerance for one another in love is similar to patience (cf. Matt. 17:17), but with the intention for benefit of others in forgiveness and reconciliation (Col. 3:13). Tolerance or patience “left unqualified could result in resentment or anger rather than love” (Harold Hoehner, Ephesians, 510).

#### 3. **An Objective of Walking in a Worthy Manner** (v.3)

The goal of the Christian life and walk of faith is not only for one’s own spiritual sanctification. We are to strive to live in faithfulness to God and obedience to His commands because we are at peace with Him (Rom. 5:1) and we are to strive to live at peace with all men (Heb. 12:14; James 3:18). Christians are to tirelessly work so as to exemplify this picture of peace in unity with one another that is often difficult to achieve or maintain (Col. 3:15-17; 2 Thess 3:16).

#### 4. **A Model of Walking in a Worthy Manner** (vs.4-6)

We serve a God of peace, not of confusion or discord (cf. 1 Cor. 14:33). All believers were once united in that we were all children of wrath (Eph. 2:3). In Christ, God has broken down those walls that would divide any one Christian from another so that we can experience peace and unity (Eph. 2:14) while being forbidden from showing any partiality whatsoever (cf. Jam. 2:1). All Christians partake of the same table (cf. 1 Cor. 11:23ff), the same baptism, believe the same message (Jude 3), and serve the same God.