

Our Relationship with Each Other

Ephesians 4:1-6

Pastor Duane Lawrence

After declaring and defining all that God has done for us (Ephesians 1-3), freely by His grace; Paul now admonishes us to live (walk) worthy, since he has explained to us what God has already done for us.

MAIN POINT: to encourage the church to maintain unity and live a life worthy of their calling.

UNITY – Unity in the Spirit through peace – Unity is based on the presence of the Holy Spirit, Who created unity and baptizes all Christians into Christ.

Romans 6:3

WORTHY LIVING – to live a life worthy of their calling, which includes being humble, gentle, patient, and bearing with one another in love.

Colossians 3:13

CALLING – to live out their calling as a response to God's summons - This calling is a common calling for every believer, regardless of rank or ability.

When we **really understand** how much God has done for us (forgiven our sins, and given us eternal life, the Holy Spirit sets up residence in us, etc.), we will hopefully, have the desire to serve and obey Him out of gratitude.

UNDERSTANDING WHO WE ARE is the foundation of this worthy walk.

We do not walk worthy so that God will love us, but we walk worthy because He does love us. Our walk should be motivated from a heart of gratitude, not out of a desire to earn merit.

So, how should we walk? Glad you asked –

We should walk –

WITH ALL LOWLINESS – a glorious Christian virtue; we can be happy and content when we are not in control or steering things our way.

GENTLENESS – being mild-spirited and self-controlled; not a pushy desire to defend our own rights and advance our own agenda.

PATIENCE – long-tempered, as an outgrowth of humility and gentleness -

2 –Our Relationship ...

SHOWING TOLERANCE FOR ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE – demonstrating love for one another that is continuous and unconditional.

BEING DILIGENT TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE – we do not have to create the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; God has created it by His Spirit; our responsibility is to recognize and keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Since God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are completely unified in every aspect of the divine nature and plan, Christians (believers) should also be completely unified. When Christians are not unified it causes division and distrust.

We (Christians) have unity because of what we share in common; one body and one Spirit. Because of Jesus we share one body, one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one Father.

Our God is Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all. (Genesis 1:26)

All Christians are one in the Spirit and it is our responsibility to observe that unity, recognize it as real, and act upon it. We must make every effort to work hard at maintaining the unity of the Spirit. The body of Christ should maintain itself and build every one of its members up so that they can do good works. (Ephesians 2:10)

We do not do good works to become saved, but good works are a result of our being saved.

Our relationship with each other as Christians is very important and our relationship with those who are not Christians is also important.

I Peter 2:12 – “having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (NKJV)

Peter was teaching that when a person who is an unbeliever encounters the grace of God, he may respond by believing in God because he remembers the way that Christians lived among him. The ones who do not believe will experience the wrath of God.

We as Christians should continue to develop our relationships with one another so that God is glorified, we are edified, and Satan is horrified.

Continue to develop our relationships one with another –

FELLOWSHIP – Hebrews 10:25

Worship is a vital part of developing our relationship and spiritual life

3 – Our Relationship ...

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER – I Timothy 2:1-3

We talk to God – when you cannot talk to a person about God, talk to God about that person.

RESTORATION – Matthew 18:15-17

Restore a brother or sister who has sinned against you -

LOVE ONE ANOTHER – John 13:34

We are to love one another just as Jesus loves us -

PUT UP WITH ONE ANOTHER – Colossians 3:12-14; Ephesians 4:32

Because Jesus continues to “put up” with us, we should be willing to tolerate each other in the spirit of love and forgiveness. This is the kind of attitude, behavior, and conduct that God expects from His children.

LOVING WELL – I Peter 4:8

This one is a real challenge but we should forgive sins that others have committed against us, if possible, and always be willing to forgive insults and acts of not being kind.

Romans 12:18 – “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

We should strive to be at peace with each other, but there are times that the peace will not be achieved; because whether peace is achieved or not will for the most part depend on how the other person responds in attitude, behavior, and conduct.

However, when we **really understand** how much God has done for us, we will respond by **servng** each other gladly and **willing** to make sacrifices, **loving** unconditionally, **forgiving** continuously, **praying** fervently, **studying** diligently, **giving** generously, **sharing** the gospel enthusiastically, and **waiting** expectantly, we will have relationships that will bring glory to God and good to each other.

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