



## Walk This Way

By Jeff Bedwell on July 16, 2021

### TODAY'S READING: Ephesians 4

Paul's letter to the Ephesians, like many of his letters we have in our New Testament, has a wonderful balance between doctrine and application. The first three chapters focus on the wealth we have in Jesus Christ -- all that is true of those of us who belong to Jesus.

The second part of this letter focuses on how we live in light of our new life, our new potential in Jesus Christ. Paul seeks to capture this by using the word, *walk*. "*Walk worthy of [your] calling*" (4:1); "*walk in love*" (5:2); "*walk as children of light*" (5:8); "*walk, not as unwise but as wise*" (5:15).

In this chapter, Paul describes some character qualities of the person walking or living in a manner worthy of the calling that is ours in Christ Jesus. He begins with *humility*. You can describe humility as "seeing myself as God sees me, no more and no less." It is a willingness to accept God's authority over our lives. It shows up in a willingness to serve God by serving others.

*Gentleness or meekness* is the second character quality Paul lists. This has been described as "power under control." The meek person is the person who knows his or her strength but submits that strength to Christ in a ministry of love and caring for others. It is a willingness to be least if obedience to Christ calls for it.

*Patience* is also part of our worthy walk. Patience is trusting that God's timetable is good and wise. It is a spirit of persistence in the face of trials and setbacks. Patience is trusting in God to act when, where and how He chooses, which is very often not on our timetable.

Patience shows up in our relationships with others in the form of longsuffering or bearing with one another in love. This is a willingness to put up with someone in a spirit of love -- a commitment to seek and do the best for another. Paul wrote: "*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things*" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, ESV).

When we walk with these character qualities, we experience a supernatural unity based on our oneness in Jesus Christ. May our lives and our churches be marked by this worthy walk! Take some time today to sit before the Lord and ask Him to show you which of these character qualities He most wants to grow in you.

**PRAYER:** Father, in light of who You are, all that You have done for me, and who I now am in Jesus Christ, help me walk in a manner worthy of my calling.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Weekend is for catch-up and review.

**MONDAY'S READING:** Ephesians 5

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