

Message Series:

Membership Has Its Privileges: Walking with Christ A Study of Ephesians 4-6

Message for Sunday, February 21:

The Worthy Life

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Today’s Main Thought: A believer’s lifestyle must be in balance with the “call” Christ places on his/her life.

What Is a Worthy Life?

The worthy life mirrors a lifestyle after the life of Jesus Christ.

- Negative lifestyle or conduct: Eph 2:2; 1 Cor 3:3; Col 3:7; and 2 Thes 3:11
- Positive lifestyle or conduct: Eph 4:1; 5:2; Rom 6:4; and Gal 5:16

How Do I Go about Living a Worthy Life?

To embrace the worthy life and strive for unity within the body of Jesus Christ followers of Christ must hold close the following moral virtues.

- **Be humble.** Have a mind of humility (Phil 2:3; Col 2:18, 23; 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5).
- **Be gentle.** Maintain a position where one’s power and strength are under control (1Cor 4:21; 2Co 10:1; Gal 5:23; 6:1; Eph 4:2; Col 3:12; 2Tit 2:25; Tit 3:2; Jas 1:21; 3:13; 1Pet 3:16).

- **Be patient.** Keep an attitude which overlooks and endures the frustrations prompted by others (Proverbs 25:15; Rom 2:4 and 9:22; 2 Cor 6:6; Gal 5:22; Eph 4:2; Col 1:11; 1 Tit 1:16; Heb 6:12; Jas 5:10; 1Pet 3:20; 2Pet 3:15).
- **Be tolerant.** Do our best to “hold (ourselves) back from one another”. Differences between believers are to be tolerated (Mt 17:17; Mk 9:19; Lk 9:41; 1Co 4:12; 2Co 11:1; Eph 4:2; Col 3:13; 2Th 1:4).
- **Be loving.** Keep a mindset which focuses on a generous kind of love (Ro 5:8; Eph 1:4).

Getting Started

Read Ephesians chapter 4. What heirloom(s) do you desire to leave behind for your children or grandchildren? Why?

Digging Deeper

- On a scale of 1 (weak) to 10 (strong), how unified is Judson? Please email me at pastorlara@judsonoakpark.com; I really would like to know your thoughts.
- How are you doing at fulfilling your call to “keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (v. 3)?

Living It Out

This Wednesday, February 24, please fast one meal or sacrifice leisure media activity to pray for the elders as they make decisions concerning the following:

- transportation needs at JBC
- facility needs
- assembling shepherding groups

Next Week: Ephesians 4:4-6: Unity

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