

Walking Worthy (Part 1) Ephesians 4 and 5

Once we hear that we are seated in the heavenlies with Christ, that we have been raised with Christ and stand in His gracious and forever love... it's time to go for a "walk"! A "walk", Paul says, that is "worthy of the calling". (Eph 4:1) Paul uses a word that would have quickly reminded his readers of a set of balancing scales. Of two items that are of equal weight, or value, or worth. God's calling and our response (our walk) need to be in balance, Paul says. He then strongly and succinctly illustrates how such a balancing act or walk might look.

To walk worthily is to walk in our true (new creation) selves. (4:17-32) The new self is the self you became when Christ came into you. It did not come out of the old self, but out of the death of the old self. Nevertheless, in this passage, Paul is talking more about the ways and practices of the old or new self rather than the nature of the old or new self. Learn to cooperate with Christ's life in you and you can put off the old "clothing" or expressions of the self-focused life - you don't need them anymore! They are all "outfits" for human misery. Jesus never wore any of those "garments" so they won't ever "fit" you. To continue to dress and walk in the "clothing" of the old self would be akin to Lazarus going back to the tomb after being brought back to life and putting on the grave clothes. How foolish!

You and I may now walk in the grace clothes of our new life. These are the garments and expressions of the God-focused Life - suited to be claimed and appropriated by faith. Put on these expressions of your true self and discover that Jesus Christ is enough.

To walk worthily is also to walk in the light (5:8-14). No matter the circumstances, we may take specific inner-stances that enable us to begin to see what only the light of God can reveal. To begin with, we must be honest. You can't lie to the light or in the light and get by with it for long. The grace of God works when we are honest. When we drop our excuses and forfeit our rationalizations, we walk in the light. We have nothing to fear if we know who the Light is! We must also dare to worship God in all things. (5:20) When we trade in our whining for worship, make God our subject or central reference point, we may walk in such a way that the sensory and material no longer get the final word. We may look and listen for what our senses cannot usually tell us. Finally, when we take the inner stance of walking in His love (5:2), we walk in the light. Revelation is not so much for students as it is for lovers. The "lights" come on when we intend to be used by God for the sake of others. Try it, it can be a real eye-opening experience.



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In other words, there is no "church-less" Christ. None of us experiences or expresses the Crucified, Risen Savior alone. None of us exists or testifies by or for ourselves. He lives His life through us together. "We" (plural) are Christ's body (I Cor 12:27). The body of Christ, Paul says, "is not one member, but many." (I Cor 12:14)

We may not all be "healthy" at the same time (ever had a toothache?), we may not always agree (did your stomach ever disagree with your taste buds?), we may not all like one another some days (did you ever wish you had different hair?). Nevertheless, we are a God made family and He has "placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired." (I Cor 12:18).

Shouldn't that be enough right there to call us to celebrate together the life we share in common that is far from common - the life of Jesus Christ?

One In Christ, Inc.
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