



“A Graceful Walk”

The Church’s Conduct

Ephesians 4:1-3

A graceful walk is one that is :

I. Majestic - “I ...beseech you” (v. 1)
Splendid, Regal, Magnificent, Royal, Nobile

Realizing we have a :

- A. **Stage** – “that ye walk”
- B. **Strategy** – “worthy of the vocation”
- C. **Standard** – “wherewith ye are called”

II. Magnanimous – “With all...with...” (v. 2)
generous in forgiving an insult or injury; free from petty
resentfulness or vindictiveness

Realizing we must have a :

- A. **Mindset** – “lowliness”
- B. **Method** - “meekness”
- C. **Mettle** - “longsuffering”

III. Meticulous - “Endeavoring to” (v. 3)
taking or showing extreme care about minute details; precise; thorough
Realizing we have peace that is :

- A. **Guarded** – “keep the unity”
- B. **Granted** – “of the Spirit”
- C. **Glued** – “in the bond of peace”

Sentence Sermon:

“The Church is to be a peaceful unified place where the grace of God is on display.”

Additional Verses

- **Romans 12:3**
- **Philippians 2:8**
- **Matthew 11:29**
- **Galatians 5:22-23; 6:1**
- **II Timothy 2:25; 4:2**
- **Colossians 1:11; 3:12**
- **James 5:8-10**
- **I Peter 3:16**

Our Calling

Salvation

- **Romans 1:5-6; 8:29-30; I Corinthians 1:9**

Sanctification

- **I Peter 1:15-16; I Thessalonians 4:1-3**

Service

- **Ephesians 2:10; 4:1, 12**

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. What are the key words in this passage? Why?
- 2. Can you share a story of how someone (maybe you) has not lived up to the Christian calling?
- 3. In which of these 3 traits do you struggle most?
- 4. What does peace look like?
- 5. Is it really possible to live in peace?
- 6. What are the main threats to your peace?

INTRO:

The word "Walk" appears 5 times in the next 2 chapters highlighting the reality that the letter to the Ephesians has shifted from the church's calling to its conduct.

- **Researches devised this clever experiment. They found that most seminary students on their way to an appointment walked right past a man slumped over and groaning in pain in a doorway. Some of the students were on their way to give a talk about the parable of the Good Samaritan. Clearly they did not understand the "vocation" they were pursuing.**
- **Churchgoers struggle with the same thing...Someone put together the following list about how believers live their lives based on the songs we sing.**
- **1. We sing Sweet Hour of Prayer and are content with 5-10 minutes a day.
2. We sing Onward Christian Soldiers and wait to be drafted into His service.
3. We sing O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing and don't use the one we have.
4. We sing There Shall be Showers of Blessing but do not come to church when it rains.**

- 5. We sing Blest Be the Tie That Binds and let the least little offense sever it.**
- 6. We sing Serve the Lord With Gladness and gripe about all we have to do.**
- 7. We sing I Love To Tell the Story and never mention it at all.**
- 8. We sing We're Marching to Zion but fail to march to worship or school.**
- 9. We sing Cast Thy Burden on the Lord and worry ourselves into a nervous breakdown.**
- 10. We sing Throw Out the Lifeline and content ourselves with throwing out a fishing line.**

V. 1

- I, ..., the prisoner of the Lord – Paul is linking his credibility and previous message from 3:1 and the whole first three chapters
- Therefore = now this is what you can do with it...we have talked about the church's calling...now lets talk about its conduct!!
- Beseech you = a warm, personal but urgent desire for them.
- That you walk = “peripateo” literally...to walk around or to walk about meaning how we behave ourselves. (Infinitive...to walk around....the content of Paul's urging).
- Worthy = “equivalent” that which balances the scales
 - having the same position, force, value, or effect
 - effect, significance, etc.: His silence is equivalent to an admission of guilt.
 - position, function, etc.: In some ways their prime minister is equivalent to our president.
- The vocation = “the calling” same word as later...the invitation to a feast. Live up to the expectation inherent within the invitation. You received Christ for freedom from sin...live like it because now you have received your freedom from sin's grasp.
- You are called = to invite by the calling of one's name.

V. 2 -

- With = # 1
 - All = in every way, in every thing, with every man
 - Lowliness - *Humility* - Compare to
 - >> Romans 12:3 – “not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think”
 - >> Same word as in Philippians 2:8 – Christ humbled himself to become one of us.
 - >> Only one of the three that is not automatic with the Spirit's control....It is an act of the will.
 - Meekness = gentleness
 - What is the Opposite of Gentle?
 - Rough, harsh, untamed, intense, unkind, loud, heavy, wild, crusty, hateful, ill-tempered, disagreeable, ill-conditioned, unamiable, crabbed, dogged, ill-humored, sour, unlovely, cruel, gruff, ill-natured.
- With = # 2 - add to what has already been prescribed...Piper sees this as a second stage of love following humility and gentleness.
 - Longsuffering = patience...slowness in avenging wrongs....but how can I do this?
 - Forbearing = “a participle of means”...patience till the provocation is past

V.3

- Endeavoring = be diligent...be eager...prioritize this...make every effort
- To keep = to guard...maintain.. indicates that it is present and needs to be protected...
 - sometimes we must do some ground work to remove what is blocking unity...sin, offenses, busted relationships, need for reconciliation and restoration and restitution
- the unity of the Spirit = “unity = agreement” unity that is produced by the Holy Spiritit is kept by removing sin, being careful not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit through sins of commission or omission.
- In the bond of peace = it is peace that keeps things together....when there is no peace...seek out the problem of whether or not we must do something about sin.

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