

The One and the Many, Part 1

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6

Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Calling to which You have been Called

I. Why Does Paul Need to “Urge”/ “Implore”/ “Beg”/ “Beseech”?

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, *urge* (beg-RSV, implore-NAS, beseech-KJV) you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called... - Ephesians 4:1

1. An Explicit Reason

“A central element in such a lifestyle is the harmony of our relationships with one another in the church.”¹

2. An Implicit Reason

“Roughly half of this group stopped going as often because of what researchers called “practical issues”: they are too busy, have a crazy work schedule, or even describe themselves as “too lazy” to go. Others said they just don’t care about attending services as much as doing other things...this explanation is interesting in that it suggests that many people view religious services as optional in a way they might not have in the past. Fifty or 60 years ago, churches, in particular were a *center* of social and cultural life in America. For many people, that’s still the case, but the survey suggests that many people may be creating their social lives outside of a religious context.”²

II. What Does A “Worthy Walk” Look Like?

1. Humility

2. Gentleness

¹ Sinclair Ferguson, Let’s Study Ephesians, p. 99

² Pew Research

3. Patient, Forbearing Love

“Christian patience involves being able to take a long-term view of a fellow Christian as a ‘work in process’, remembering that our Lord has been and is so patient with us.”³

4. Eager for Unity

I in them and you in me, that they may be perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. – John 17:23

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! – Psalm 133:1

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. – Ephesians 4:4-6

“The Church has largely replaced the Gospel of the Kingdom with the Gospel of salvation. It’s the beauty of the salvation message that makes it so easy to miss the fact that it is only a part of the whole message that Jesus gave us. The Gospel of salvation is focused on getting people saved and going to Heaven. The Gospel of the Kingdom is focused on the transformation of lives, cities, and nations through the effect of God’s present rule- this is made manifest by bringing the reality of Heaven to earth. We must not confuse our destiny with our assignment. Heaven is my destiny, while bringing the Kingdom is my assignment. The focus of the Kingdom is the rightful dominion of God over everything. Whatever is inconsistent with Heaven – namely, disease, torment, hatred, division, sin habits, etc. – must come under the authority of the King.”⁴

Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Calling to which You have been Called

“In light of all this, here’s what I want you to do. While I’m locked up in here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk-better yet, run!-on the road God called you to travel. I don’t want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don’t want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline- not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, on baptism, one God and

³ Sinclair Ferguson, pg. 100

⁴ Bill Johnson, God is Good, pg. 67

Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.”⁵

⁵ Eugene Peterson, *The Message*