

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 23, 2016

“Alive in Christ: Walking in Christ”

Ephesians 4:1-16

“Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” (Philippians 1:27)

“Therefore, I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.” (Ephesians 4:1)

beg = *parakaleo* =

It connotes _____ feeling and strong _____. In this context, it’s not simply a request, but a _____, an imploring or begging.

Paul wasn’t just giving suggestions to the Ephesians, but divine _____.

“...urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.” (Ephesians 4:1)

The word ‘walk’ is used in the NT to refer to daily _____.

worthy = *axios* =

The word came to be applied to anything that was expected to _____ to something else.

calling = *klesis* =

Calling in Paul’s writings refers to the Lord’s _____, effectual call to _____.

No one can be saved apart from _____ Jesus as Saviour, and no one can choose Christ who hasn’t already been _____ by the Father and the Son.

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...” (John 6:44)

Without God’s calling—without His choosing us—our choosing Him would be _____.

“...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:2-3)

5 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORTHY WALK

Characteristic #1: _____.

tapeinophrosune =

Humility is the most _____ Christian virtue. We can’t begin to _____ God without it.

Humility can be terribly _____ because if focussed on too much, it will turn into _____—its very opposite. Humility is a virtue to be highly sought, but never claimed, because once claimed it’s _____.

“Take my yoke upon you for I am gentle and humble in heart.” (Matthew 11:29)

“The one who says he abides in him ought himself to walk in the same manner he walked.” (1 John 2:6)

No virtue is more _____ to the world’s ways. The word exalts _____, not humility; and for the most part, humility has been looked on as _____.

3 MARKS OF TRUE HUMILITY

• _____.
The first thing the honest person sees in themselves is _____. One of the marks of true humility is daily _____ of sin.

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1: 8-9)
Often we judge ourselves by _____ with others.

“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” (Romans 12:3)

• _____
_____ is the only standard by which righteousness or pleasing God can be judged.

“...walk in the same manner as he walked.” (1 John 2:6)

• _____
As we study Jesus’ life in the gospels we come to see Him more and more

His human _____ And his _____ perfection.

No matter who we are, we all come before the Lord with nothing to _____ us and everything to _____ us, except the _____ of Jesus.

“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 18:14)

Are you exalting yourself or humbling yourself? Is there evidence of this characteristic of the worthy walk in your life?

Characteristic #2: _____.

Meekness is often defined in a _____ way, as:

praotes refers to that which is _____ and self-controlled.

If meekness is power under _____, biblical meekness is power under the control of _____.

“Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?” (Matthew 6:53)

3 MARKS OF TRUE MEEKNESS

- _____
“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.” (Proverbs 16:32)
- _____ at God’s name being maligned and _____ of anger when you yourself is harmed or criticised.
- A _____ attitude towards the _____.
A meek person doesn’t look down on non-believers with a feeling of _____, but longs for their _____.

“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

Are you self-controlled or self-asserting? Is there evidence of this characteristic of the worthy walk in your life?

Characteristic #3: _____.

makrothumia =

The patient person endures negative _____ and never gives into them. They accept God’s plan without _____ or grumbling. They don’t complain when their calling seems less _____ than someone else’s or when the Lord sends them to a place

that’s _____ or difficult.

“Brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord comes again. See how farmers wait for their precious crops to grow. They wait patiently for fall and spring rains. You, too, must be patient. Don’t give up hope. The Lord will soon be here.” (James 5:7-8)

Are you long-suffering? Do you patiently endure? Is there evidence of this characteristic of the worthy walk in your life?

Characteristic #4: _____.

anecho =

We are told that such a love “covers a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8)

“Hatred stirs up strife, but lovers covers all transgressions.” (Proverbs 10:12)

Forbearing love can only be _____ love because it gives continuously, _____, and self-sacrificingly. Agape love is unqualified and _____ love—love that willingly gives whether it receives in return or not.

“Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Colossians 3:13)

Do you have forbearing love? Is there evidence of this characteristic of the worthy walk in your life?

Characteristic #5: The ultimate outcome of humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance is “being _____ to preserve the _____ of Spirit in the bond of peace.

spoudazo = diligent =

“For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit...As it is, there are many members, yet one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:13, 20)

The bond that preserves this unity is _____—the spiritual belt that surrounds and binds God’s people together.

“being the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” (Philippians 2:2)

Do you seek to preserve the unity of Spirit in the bond of peace? Is there evidence of this characteristic of the worthy walk in your life.