

“Live As One”
Ephesians 4:1-6
Sermon Series: “The Walk”

Introduction: In the previous two messages, we looked at Ephesians 4:1 in detail. The main idea was, “We live out what Jesus expects of us by living out of what Jesus has done for us.” This statement will serve as our guide as we study the rest of the book. Remember that the first three chapters focused on what Jesus has done for us, and the last three focus on how we are to live in response. There are many commands in the second half of the letter after being almost none in the first half, and Paul begins this section by giving commands about how we relate to each other as fellow believers.

So, we see that walking worthy is not just personal but relational. It involves more than just “me and Jesus.” It includes how we relate to and treat our brothers and sisters in Christ. While Jesus alone is our Savior, the New Testament knows no version of Christianity that functions outside of the Body of Christ.

Main Idea: Jesus made us one so live like we are one.

1. Jesus made us one (v. 4-6). Notice the repetition of the word, “one.” There is one body (the church), one Spirit (the Holy Spirit who indwells all believers), one hope of our calling (we have seen in Ephesians that this is the effectual calling of God that brings us to salvation), one Lord (Jesus), one faith (the body of truth revealed in the New Testament, Jude calls it “the faith once for all delivered to the saints”), and one Father (so we are brothers and sisters with the same Father). **What makes us one in this way?**

A. Our Position-We are made alive together with Christ and raised up to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ (2:5-6). We are reconciled to God in one body (2:16).

B. Our relationship-We are “one new man,” “fellow citizens” of God’s Kingdom, members of God’s family (2:15, 19).

C. What Jesus did to make it happen-shedding His blood on the cross (2:13, 16). Disunity in the church is an insult to the cross of Jesus.

D. In order to honor God and be a witness to the world (John 17:20-23).

2. We live like we are one (v. 2-3). How do we do this?

A. We develop godly character (v. 2). The principle is that the quality of our character determines the quality of our relationships. We develop the right kind of relationships by being the right kind of people. This can be done through the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:16-25). Here are the character qualities that Paul mentions in this passage:

-Lowliness, which means humility.

-Gentleness, which means meekness.

-Longsuffering, which means patience with people. Bearing with one another amplifies longsuffering.

-Love (John 13:34-35)

B. We make a determined effort to guard the unity that we have through the Spirit. Romans 12:18 says, “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.” One of the seven deadly sins is sowing discord among brethren (Proverbs 6:19b). Practically, how do we guard this unity?

-Talk to each other and not about each other (Matthew 18:15).

-Forgive (Ephesians 4:32).

-Esteem others higher than ourselves and look out for each others needs (Philippians 2:3-4).

-Understand the difference between primary and secondary doctrine, and refuse to divide over secondary matters (Jude 3, Romans 14:1).

-Practice church discipline (Romans 16:17-18, Titus 3:10-11).