

Walk Worthy of Calling With Which You have been Called

Ephesians 4:1-7

As a new church in Omaha, Tribe Church has the opportunity to fulfill, with purpose and excitement, what God has called Pastor Ken and us to: an intimate and loving atmosphere where his vision for personal and corporate calling are lived out and for uniting the pastors and churches of Omaha so that true revival can break out in this city.

We probably all have our own idea of what church is supposed to be like. But do we really know what to expect from a community of people who God calls together for a new work and impact in the climate around us?

Well, it was so important to the Apostle Paul that we know how to relate to each other, and how to fulfill the purposes of the church, that he wrote this letter to the Ephesians, and especially starting with Chapter 3:14 through the end of the book.

Paul spent three years in Emphasis. And later, while he was in prison, he wrote this letter to his beloved Ephesians. The last 8 verses of Chapter 3 are the pivotal point in the book. The first three chapters are doxology, theology, and doctrine. Explaining who God is, praising Him and establishing and explaining what the powerful Christian life is all about.

From the beginning of the book, the work of each person in the Trinity in our salvation is described-

- Father is the source of, and blesses us with, all spiritual blessing and His will is guided by his kind intention toward us who believe, and chose us before the world was created,
- The Son who redeems us through His blood,
- The Spirit who seals us with the promise and guaranty of our inheritance as saints.

He prays that:

- our spiritual eyes would be opened,
- that we would receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ,
- we would know the hope of His calling,
- and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- the exceeding greatness of His power toward us,
- and the working of His mighty power.

The whole point of the first three chapters of Ephesians is that God has already invested Himself in us.

God's redemption is a rebirthing of the power within us to make the world a better place. The greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is the recreation of the Spirit of man. In Christ we have newness of life, Rom 6:4. Without Christ we are dead!

He designed humanity to reflect His beauty and glory in the earth. God has designed all of us to become more than what meets the eye.

He has planned for all human beings on the planet to reach their full God-given potential, fulfill their personal mission, and become complete in Christ.

But here, in chapter 4 he shifts and says "because everything that has happened, now I want you to live this out." He describes the church that Jesus longs for.

Paul didn't go to Ephesus to just change hearts, he went to change the culture.

Before we go there, we have to have an idea of the transition point Paul wrote so that we can see why he is going where he goes in Chapter 4.

Ephesians 3:14-21

These are among the most beautiful and inspiring statements in Paul's epistles. In the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul expands on our personal high and holy calling in Christ.

In Eph 2:10 [For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.]

Paul tells us that the purpose of our salvation is to prepare us to live out the great works we were created by God to perform.

But this section in chapter 3 is a transition point with an amazing set of statements of what Christ has done in and will do through us.

For this reason... What reason? That God has revealed the mystery of what true fellowship will accomplish through Christ as the church fulfills its eternal purpose. Note in verse 10 Paul declares that it will be through the church that the wisdom of God will be made known (revealed) to the (spiritual) world.

In verse 20 & 21 Paul declares the **amazing purpose of God through the church** so that the church have His glory, not just a little, but exceedingly abundantly! **God will not share His glory with any man, but He will with His betrothed church.**

The church needs to be transfigured before the eyes of the world in order to fulfill the call of God.

So now, we go back to our main text in Chapter 4. Paul is headed to an introduction of how Holy Spirit performs through us by the gifts of Jesus to the Church. But before he does, he reminds us that we all have been called by God to a sanctified purpose-to demonstrate his

character on the earth. He challenges us to live our lives in such a way as to be worthy of our high calling.

This requires a little deeper understanding of the significance of these words.

Walk= "peripateo"- to lead a life, to live, to occupy.

Peri- at all times all around us,

Pateo- is place your feet. It is where the name Petrus, or Peter comes from, which means rock or stone. Pateo is to place firmly your foot on the stones of the path that God has set for you.

Worthy= "axios"

Definition

- 1 weighing, having weight, having the weight of another thing of like value, worth as much
- 2 deserving of recognition equal to the value of one's work
- 3 the assessment in keeping with how something "weighs in"
- 4 'drawing down the scale' hence 'weighing as much as,' 'of like value
- 5 is the root of the English term, "axis." This also refers to a *balance-scale*

Where we get the word "AXIS" a central or principal structure, about which something turns or is arranged:



Where we get the word axis as depicted on a balance scale.

Calling= "klesis" an invitation, the invitation of God to us as individuals and together as a church. We each have specific calling and we all together have a same calling.

Called= "kaleo" empowered to live an extraordinary life. Based on the powerful words expressed in the previous verses about who you are, what God has called you to do, and what is possible when the Life of Christ is lived out of you.

Our response is to be of equal weight to the life that was given to us to live. Christ's life!
Equal to the perfect life of Christ expressed through us all. As a church, we are part of something immense, bigger than any of us individually, with the beautiful potential of a whole and holy work of God.

We have been rescued from fallen humanity, transported into His kingdom, and progressively changed into His likeness. Each of us must live up to the progressive revelation we have received-out of the fullness of Christ.

The calling we have received is beautiful, immense, and beyond our ability to fully comprehend. But we should seek with all our lives to live out the glory of the calling in which we have been called.

This calling is based on what God has already done on our behalf. He has invested Himself in us. If we are in Christ, we don't need to try to gain the riches of Christ, we need to realize that Christ's full treasure is already within us.

Not only do we have a personal calling, but we have a shared or corporate calling. So here in Ephesians 4:2-4 Paul calls the church to calling from heavenly Father.

“with all humility, gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Do these attributes sound familiar? They are included in the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22.

Humility is the mind set that says, “what a privilege it is to be with people better than me.”

Gentleness- literally means “a wild animal that has been tamed.”

Patient- suffering long with aggravating people.

Tolerance- throwing a blanket over the sin of others so that all we see is the person on the blanket.

Diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit- seeking the purposes of the “us” over the needs of “me”.

We must grasp this for ourselves and for our church. These attributes can only be expressed in the church that is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

If we are going to be what God has meant for this church we need to live this out. If we don't get this right, not only will we miss it, what does it say to outsiders? But when we do get it right, Christ is glorified and authority and power is released.

Our authority is found in the fruit of the Spirit, not the gifts of the Spirit. Fruit is character. What the world needs is to see the character of Jesus displayed through the church.

Authority in the Kingdom of God is distributed to each person in Christ, and each one now has direct connection to the source-King Jesus.

Authority: When Christ rules and reigns within and over us, authority is proven by character, not position.

Character is the only authority we need, for when Christ's life is lived through us, His character is our character.

What we are to do is spur each other to fulfill our respective individual callings and our corporate calling by what Jesus has done, by our love and appreciation rather than out of obligation.

If, spiritually, we have already received everything there is to receive in Christ, then by living out of love for each other, we gain the joy of fulfilling our high calling.

Finally, Eph 4:7 To each one of us grace was given (vs 7) . Only as we all function according to the grace given to each of us will the whole body become obedient to its head, Jesus, and reveal Him to a dying world. We have been given a gift (grace), and we must learn how to use it so that when we minister it, we not only impact the culture, but we equip the next generation.

Each of us is given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. The full strength of the Kingdom of God is found in each one of us who is in Christ accepting and allowing Christ's gift to us to be expressed.

The only way we will find a true expression of Christ in the church is if all of Christ's fruit and gifts to the church are working to build up the body and reflect an accurate measure of who Christ is to the world.

OUR HOLY STANDING IS NOT DETERMINED BY WHAT WE DO OR HAVE DONE, BUT BY WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US. WE ARE SET APART TO BE HOLY FOR A GREAT WORK BY THE WORK OF CHRIST ON OUR BEHALF!