**EPHESIANS 4**

**WALK THIS WAY…**

In chapters 1-3 of Ephesians the Apostle Paul has been telling us **WHO** we are… **Adopted** into the family of God… **Chosen** before the foundation of the world… **Redeemed** by the blood of the Lamb… And **sealed** by the Holy Spirit… He is IN us. He has claimed us, and HE IS NOT letting go!

In the second half of this letter to the Ephesians he will begin to tell us **HOW** we should live and behave.

**Ephesians 4:1**  I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

* From Prison in Rome, Paul does NOT call himself a prisoner of Rome…
* HE IS A PRISONER of Jesus Christ (Ch 3) and now in Ch 4 a “prisoner of the Lord…”
* He knows that he is in prison for preaching to Gentiles, AND… he knows that God will be glorified in Paul’s suffering for Him.
* AND SO… he beseeches them… implores them… Urges them to walk worthy of their calling.
* HOW do they do that? Listen…

2  with all lowliness and gentleness, ***(Absence of pride)***

* **Guzik -** A worthy walk before God will be marked by lowliness and gentleness, not a pushy desire to defend our own rights and advance our own agenda.
* I think that there are few things as ugly as pride and nothing more beautiful than humility. Humble people are easy to hang out with…

***BE HUMBLE…***

with longsuffering, ***(Opposite of short-tempered)*** bearing with one another in love,

* Have the reputation of being “long-tempered.”
* **QUESTION** – If being Long tempered is loving, what is being short-tempered? ***ASKING FOR A FRIEND***

***RESULT OF LONGSUFFERING…***

3  endeavoring ***(Doing your best – CEV)*** to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

* This purposeful loving patience will go a LONG way to bringing peace to ANY family – be it the one you live with… OR the one you worship with.
* In the list of 7 things that God hates in Proverbs 6 – The last one listed is people who cause disunity.
  + Agitators… Malcontents… Gossipers… Busy bodies… Complainers… Faultfinders…
  + We should guard our thoughts from these sins like the mat you wipe your feet on before you enter your home! Leave those outside!

***WHAT’S GOTTEN INTO YOU?***

4  *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5  one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6  one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

* THIS is how God wants His family to behave and think and love…
* One Spirit… One hope… One Lord… One faith… One baptism…One God…
* I love when the Churches of a city are united in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of its community as one church.
  + There is not a Calvary Chapel Sarah’s House, CPC, Samaritan Center, Connect2 Ministry; These wonderful ministries are supported by THE church of Simi Valley. We just happen to meet in 30 different places…

7  But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

* IE, it takes ALL of us to be His church!
* AND… He gifted us with enough to do His will.
* Some of us struggle with that – we think we got shorted when it comes to gifts… Like when you get home from the grocery store, and you cannot find the one thing you went there for in the 4 bags of groceries you came home with…
  + “I got shorted you cry!”
  + Then, later, you find the item in the trunk of your car…
  + Beloved, God did not short you… You might need to check around your life to find His gifts… Look in the trunk! Look in your past… It is there somewhere!

**MINISTRY GIFTS**

8  Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." ***PSALM 68:18***

* In Luke 16 Jesus tells of the pre-crucifixion hades, or hell, which was shared by both the saved and the lost. You remember the parable of the rich man and the poor beggar named Lazarus.
* The rich man was suffering flames in his side of hell and Lazarus was chilling in his side… Then Jesus said this from the cross: IT… IS… FINISHED…
* I think a shout went up from the Saints waiting in the temporary heaven when they realized that they, the captives there were going to be led to heaven by Jesus Christ.
* See also Isaiah 61; 1 Peter 3:18-20 For scriptures about Jesus preaching in hades.

9  (Now this, "HE ASCENDED"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10  He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

* AND… He did! He came to be born in Bethlehem… Die on Calvary… Be buried in Jerusalem… Rise from the dead and ascend into heaven from where He sent some pretty great gifts. They are listed in the next few verses…

***LOOKING FOR PURPOSE?***

11  And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12  for the equipping of the saints ***(ALL OF US)*** for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

* These verses are NOT for a few people who serve in the church… The equipping that is spoken of here is for us all.
* Not all of us are called to be Pastors… I think though that we all have the responsibility to teach, to Evangelize, and minister to one another.

***THE PERFECT CHURCH***

13  till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

* Other than our day of salvation, this “Perfecting” is NOT an event… It is a journey.
* Last Sunday we saw one of the babies born to a family we Pastor… DRIVE out of the parking lot. She has grown from a toddler to licensed driver before our very eyes!

***THE JOURNEY***

14  that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15  but, **speaking the truth in love,** may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16  from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

* **THANK YOU** to those of you “Speaking the truth in love” around here!
* Thank you, Teachers, Bible Study Leaders, Elders, Ushers, set up Team, Worship Team, Givers, Prayer Team, Clean Team, Hospitality Team!
* One last word – Paul mentions caring for the Body… **Care for your soul!**