

# THE WORTHY LIFE

TO LIVE WORTHY OF OUR CALLING WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY THAN WE DID BEFORE ...



THOSE WHO BRING SPIRITUAL HEALTH INTO THE LIFE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM THE OLD LIFE AND ARE LEARNING HOW TO LIVE IN THE NEW REALITY TO WHICH **G**OD HAS BROUGHT US.

## 1. God's people have been called by God out of our old reality before God to a new reality before God in Christ.

### A. We who were dead in our trespasses have been made alive together with Christ.

- (Ephesians 2:4–5 ESV) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 **even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved.

### B. We have been given a high and holy position with God in Christ that is beyond our ability to fully understand but because of the clear statement of Scripture we may have full confidence in its truth.

- (Ephesians 2:6 ESV) **And raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**

#### i. We have been called out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

- (1 Peter 2:9–10 ESV) But **you are** a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you may** proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 **Once you were not** a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, **but now you have received mercy.**

#### ii. We have been called according to God's purpose.

- (Romans 8:28 ESV) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, **for those who are called according to his purpose.**

#### iii. We have been called into the fellowship of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- (1 Corinthians 1:9 ESV) God is faithful, **by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## 2. In view of our high calling and new position before God we are urged to live in a way that is befitting of such a calling.

### A. We are to live worthy of the Lord.

- (Colossians 1:10 ESV) **So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing to

him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

### B. We are to live in a manner worthy of God.

- (1 Thessalonians 2:12 ESV) We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you **to walk in a manner worthy of God**, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

### C. We are to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

- (Philippians 1:27 ESV) Only **let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

### D. We are to live in a manner worthy of our calling.

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

## 3. To live in a manner worthy of our calling then we must consciously and methodically allow our calling (our new identity) to affect the choices we make regarding our thoughts and behavior.

**If we agree** that Scripture establishes that we have been called by God, **and if we agree** that Scripture calls us to live in a certain way in view of that calling, **then it seems to follow** that we would look to Scripture as to how we are to live our new life in Christ.

### A. We must determine to consciously and methodically live in view of our new identity in Christ.

i. *Consciously* – We determine to deliberately and intentionally live by the information we receive in the Bible as to how people who have experienced new life in Christ are to live.

ii. *Methodically* – We determine in a very ordered, careful, thorough way to study the Bible to make sure we have the correct information by which we are to live.

### B. Our authoritative source for living consciously and methodically in view of our calling must be the Bible.

### C. Paul in Ephesians 4:1 lists the character qualities of those who live worthy of their calling.

- (Ephesians 4:2–3 ESV) With **all humility and gentleness**, with **patience**, **bearing with one another in love**, **3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.

- i. We are to live with all humility and gentleness,
- ii. We are to live with patience,
- iii. We are to live bearing with one another in love,
- iv. We are to live with an eagerness to maintain the unity of the Spirit.

D. Sincerely submitting to these behaviors and attitudes we will be transformed and live worthy of our calling.

**4. To live in a manner worthy of our calling we must grow up together by learning the truth in Christ, 4:11-15.**

- (Ephesians 4:11–15 ESV) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ, **13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.**

- A. Christ provides his Church with gifted leaders and teachers to equip the saints for ministry.
- B. Those of us in the body of Christ are to pursue maturity for all through the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God.
- C. We pursue maturity for the body so that we may no longer be children in the faith who are tossed to and fro and deceived by human craft and cunning.
- D. Pursuing maturity for all in the body of Christ we will speak the truth in love and grow up in Christ.

**5. To live in a manner worthy of our calling we must no longer live as we did in our previous reality and standing before God, 4:17-19.**

- (Ephesians 4:17–19 ESV) Now this I say and testify in the Lord, **that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do**, in the **futility** of their minds. **18 They are darkened** in their understanding, **alienated** from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, due to their **hardness** of heart. **19 They have become callous** and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

A. We must no longer live as we did previously in the old reality: in the futility of our minds, darkened in our understanding, alienated from the life of God.

B. Our previous reality was one of ... ignorance, hardness of heart, callousness, sensuality, greed and every kind of impurity.

**6. To live in a manner worthy of our calling we must live in our new reality by being renewed in the spirit of our minds, 4:20-24.**

- (Ephesians 4:20–24 ESV) But that is not the way you learned Christ!— **21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**

- A. We do not learn Christ by living in the old, previous reality in which we were separated from God.
- B. We learn Christ by coming to him and being taught by him—he is the only source of saving truth.

- (Matthew 11:28–29 ESV) **Come to me**, all who labor and are heavy laden, **and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, **and you will find rest for your souls.**
- (John 1:4 ESV) **In him was life**, and the life was the light of men.
- (John 14:6 ESV) Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

C. The new way in Christ teaches us that it is essential to put off the old self of our previous reality that was self-corrupting through deceitful desires.

7. To live in a manner worthy of our calling we must no longer communicate as we did in our previous reality but learn from Scripture how to communicate in our new reality, 4:25-27.

- (Ephesians 4:25–27 ESV) Therefore, **having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.** 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.

A. We must put away our previous method of communicating through pretense and falsehood.

4:25 ... falsehood – a lie ... *ψεῦδος* [pseudos/] ... a statement that deviates from or perverts the truth; a conscious and intentional falsehood; in a broad sense, whatever is not what it seems to be; of perverse, impious, deceitful precepts.

Pseudo is a prefix used in a number of languages, *often to mark something as a fake or insincere version.*

- B. Being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit we will speak the truth—we are members one of another.
- C. Because we are in the process of being renewed in the spirit of our minds and have not yet arrived at times we will contend with anger in ourselves and others when speaking the truth.
- D. At those times do not sin and hold on to our anger and give the devil an opportunity to undermine our unity in the Spirit.

8. Obeying the practical instructions for righteous living we are renewed in the spirit of our minds and walk in the light as children of light, 4:28-32.

- (Ephesians 4:28–32 ESV) Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander** be put

away from you, **along with all malice.** 32 **Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

- A. The new reality for the thief is to experience the joy of sharing with someone in need through the honest work of his or her hands.
- B. The new reality for the gossip is to replace his destructive corrupting talk with good words that build up, fit the occasion and give grace.
- C. The new reality for the bitter person is to no longer grieve the Holy Spirit of God by contaminating her life and the people around her with slander, clamor and malice.
- D. The “surprised by joy” amazing blessing of the new reality is finding ourselves to be new people who are kind to one another, tenderhearted with one another and forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven us.

**WHAT HAS HAPPENED?**

- E. We have come into the light and God has performed his transforming work in our lives.
- (John 3:21 NIV) **But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.
- F. We are no longer darkness but light in the Lord living as children of light.
- (Ephesians 5:8–9 ESV) **For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

**THE CONCLUSION: OUR GOAL/DESTINATION ... TO LIVE IN LOVE AS CHRIST LOVED US ...**

- (Ephesians 5:1–2 ESV) **Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.** 2 **And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us**, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.