

# Shadows Of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #19

Walk Worthy of High Calling

May 22, 2024

Our identity in Christ is first and foremost one of newness.

II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:

old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Rom. 6:6 We are no longer slaves to sin.

Rom. 5:10 We are reconciled to God.

II Cor. 6:14-7:1 No longer citizens of the world but apart from it.

Col. 3:2 Things of the earth no longer draw us.

Col. 1:24; I Pet. 4:12-14 We don't fear or over-emphasize suffering on earth or the trials we face.

I Tim. 6:9-11 We do not place importance on things the world values.

Rom. 12:1-2 We reflect that our minds are no longer conformed to this world.

Rom. 6:13 We are now instruments of righteousness unto God.

Eph. 6:12 Our enemy is not the people around us but the spiritual forces that endeavor to keep people from knowing God.

Phil. 1:6 We are given God's grace to grow into the spiritual maturity that truly reflects our new identity.

Key Point: The new man relates to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Col. 3:1a If ye then be risen with Christ...

When He arose from the dead, Jesus Christ left the graveclothes behind [John 20:1-10].

He had entered into a glorious resurrection life and had no need for graveclothes.

John 11:43b-44 He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

<sup>44</sup> And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes:

and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

The graveclothes represent the old life with its sinful deeds. Now that we have new life in

Christ, we must walk "in newness of life" by putting off the old deeds and desires [Rom. 6:4].

McGee: We do this by practicing our position in Christ,

by reckoning ourselves to be dead to the old and alive to the new.

Col. 3:9-10 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

<sup>10</sup> And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

The Greek verbs translated "put off" and "put on" indicate a once-for-all action.

When we trust Christ, we put off the old life and put on the new.

The old man has been buried, and the new man is now in control. But the verb translated "renewed" is a present participle — "who is constantly being renewed."

Rom. 8:28-30 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

I Thess. 4:3a For this is the will of God, even your sanctification,

Journey of Sanctification: Danger of Delayed Obedience

You can fall short of the grace of God

Journey Begins: Danger Awaits

Need Discipleship

Encouraged in Our Race

Salt is vital

Feast On Unleavened Bread

Encounter Staff; Brokenness

### Walk Worthy of Our Calling

Eph. 4:1 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,

urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

➤ My practical living matches my spiritual position.

I Thess. 2:12 "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."

I Thess. 4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

Col. 1:9-10 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

"...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."

This new walk is not passive. It is active. Nobody walks for us. Nobody makes decisions for us. Nobody gets alone with God for us. Nobody fights against lust for us.

These are all things we do. Growth in the Christian life is our responsibility.

God The Holy Spirit does the work in us, but we must do our part to walk in a manner worthy.

Phil. 2:12-13 Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. What does that walk look like?

Wiersbe: "Work out your own salvation" does not suggest, "Work for your own salvation."

Paul was writing to believers. The verb "work out" carries the meaning of "work to full completion," such as working out a problem in mathematics. In Paul's day it was also used for "working a mine," that is, getting out of the mine all the valuable ore possible;

or "working a field" to get the greatest harvest possible. God's purpose for us is to achieve Christlikeness, "to be conformed to the image of his Son" [Rom. 8:29].

There are problems in life, but God will help us to "work them out." Our lives have tremendous potential, like a mine or a field. God wants to work in us to fulfill that potential.

The walk of sanctification: Leads us to a person and His likeness; a long progressive walk. Refuse to be seduced into defining spiritual maturity in terms of religious activities.  
Key: Christ-like character is the measuring stick of growth in sanctification.

The primary instrument of sanctification is the Word of God.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your Word is truth.

God's Word trains us in righteousness so that we may "be complete." II Tim 3:16-17

The word *walk* reminds us that sanctification doesn't roll effortlessly down a superhighway; it treks resolutely up a more arduous path, steadily progressing toward the goal. The walk of sanctification demands a set purpose, steady progress and strong perseverance as well as continual surrender or yielding to the Holy Spirit's positive and negative impulses and power.

Truth: All my efforts are useless apart from the work of Christ on the cross.

It is the work of God's Spirit in me.

Paul emphasizes the Holy Spirit's role with repetition of the phrase:

- "by the Spirit" Galatians 5:16,18,25.
- "sanctified by the Holy Spirit" Roman 15:16
- it is "by the Spirit" that we are able to "put to death the deeds of the body." Rom. 8:13

Sanctification involves our cooperation.

Imperative commands in Galatians 5: "walk by the Spirit" 5:16  
 "live by the Spirit" 5: 25 "keep in step with the Spirit" 5:25

As I yield to the Holy Spirit, He provides the power to be obedient to the command:  
Col. 3:8-10 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

<sup>9</sup> Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; <sup>10</sup> And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: The Holy Spirit enables me to keep steadily on my course without faltering or fainting in spite of all opposition by not "giving place to the devil," or "grieving the Spirit." Eph. 4:30+

Eph. 4:1 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

*Ephesians 1-3*

Before Formerly Far Off	After Brought Near By Blood of Christ
Dead in trespasses & sins Slave to world, flesh & devil	Alive with Christ Raised With Christ Seated With Christ
Separated From Christ No country No covenants No hope No God	Enmity abolished One new man Reconciled to each other
Strangers & Aliens	Fellow Citizens Family of God Temple of God Dwelling of God

In Ephesians 1-3, Paul details the wonders of God's grace, His matchless love, and the magnificent blessings that God pours out on the followers of Christ. In Ephesians 1, Paul enumerates the wonderful blessings God lavishes on the person who puts their faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation.

- We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.
- He chose us to be holy and blameless before Him.
- He predestined us, in love, for adoption to Himself through Jesus Christ according to the purpose of His will.
- Our adoption is to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us.
- In Christ, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins.
- In Christ, He has lavished on us the riches of His grace, with all wisdom and insight.
- In Christ, He has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He has set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of times, to unite all things in Him.
- In Christ, we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.
- In Christ we have hope, and those of us who hope in Christ do so to the praise of His glory.
- We heard the gospel and believed.
- When we believed, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance until we obtain possession of it.

All these blessings are ours:

- through the working of the grace of God-God's active power working in us to give us new life, to give us the faith that we need to believe, and to slowly transform us into the image of Christ.
- All of that is due to the active grace of God worked in us by the Holy Spirit.
- for the purpose of displaying for all eternity, the awesome grace of God so that He will get all the praise and all the glory.

Then Paul prays that God will open the eyes of their hearts so that they will be able to comprehend the magnitude of God's grace and the magnitude of the power that is at work in them.

In Ephesians 2, Paul further demonstrates the amazing grace of God.

Question: What was your condition before you were converted?

- You were dead in your trespasses and sin.
- You were enslaved to the worldview of those who don't know God.
- You were enslaved to your own evil desires. You were enslaved to Satan.
- You had no desire to know God and no ability to save yourselves.

But God, because of His great mercy and great love, made you alive together with Christ Jesus.

Eph. 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:  
it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

At the end of Eph. 3, Paul prays that by the grace of God the Ephesians would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. He prays that they will be rooted and grounded in love and may have the strength to comprehend the fullness of God's love—a love that surpasses knowledge—and that they will be filled with the fullness of God.

He closes with a beautiful doxology to the God who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we can ask or think.

He prays that God will be glorified in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout eternity.

Eph. 4:1 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,  
urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

J Vernon McGee: Paul is a prisoner for the Lord because of his position in Christ.

Isn't it interesting that Paul can be seated in the heavenlies in Christ and can also be seated in a prison because he was a witness for Christ to the Gentiles?

Ruth Paxson: "Therefore" does not indicate the commencement of something altogether new,  
but rather the consequence of what has preceded.

- It is a call to prove the reality of our wealth through the rightness of our walk.
- It marks the transition from positional truth to practical truth.
- The condition of the Christian must harmonize with his position.
- Being in Christ, he should grow up into Christ.

Ephesians 4-6: The wealth of the Christian should be manifest in his walk.

Truth: It is impossible to have a worthy walk without KNOWING the realities of the life  
that Christ has provided you.

Truth: Belief always precedes behavior.      Calling before conduct.  
Positions before practice.                      Wealth before walk.

Key: The Christian walk is not based on ignorance but knowledge.

The better we understand Bible doctrine, the easier it is to obey Bible commands.

Note: The key idea in Ephesians 1-3 is wealth. The key word in Ephesians 4-6 is walk.

Eph. 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15

Consider: Ephesians contains 41 commands for the believer in Christ.

Only 1 command occurs in the first 3 chapters which teach doctrine. [Eph. 2:11].

There are 40 commands for the believer in Christ in the practical section which talks about our worthy walk of sanctification. God's commands are always based on truths previously revealed.

Eph. 1-3: The call to "BE."

Eph. 4-6: The call to "DO!"

If we attempt to DO, DO, DO the 40 commands to "DO" in Eph. 4-6 without soaking in and savoring the BE, which includes the unfathomable riches of Christ in Eph. 1-3, we are likely to experience frustration and futility in our daily WALK, or we may fall into the grace killing trap of legalism: "Do this. Do that. Do, Do, Do!"

1. Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called, with all lowliness and meekness. (4:1-2)
2. With longsuffering, forbear one another in love. (4:2)
3. Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4:3)
4. Put off the old man that waxes corrupt after the lusts of deceit. (4:22)
5. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind. (4:23)
6. Put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth. (4:24)
7. Put away falsehood. (4:25)
8. Speak truth each one with his neighbor. (4:25)
9. Be angry, and sin not. (4:26)
10. Let him that stole labor, working with his hands the thing that is good. (4:28)
11. Let what is good for edifying proceed out of your mouth. (4:29)
12. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. (4:31)
13. Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other. (4:32)
14. Be followers of God, as dear children. (5:1)
15. Walk in love. (5:2)
16. Give thanks. (5:4)
17. Walk as children of light. (5:8)
18. Reprove the unfruitful works of darkness. (5:11)
19. Walk circumspectly. (5:15)
20. Redeem the time. (5:16)
21. Be understanding what the will of the Lord is. (5:17)
22. Be filled with the Spirit. (5:18)
23. Speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. (5:19)
24. Give thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (5:20)
25. Submit yourselves one to another in the fear of God. (5:21)
26. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. (5:22)
27. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church. (5:25)
28. Let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself. (5:33)
29. The wife see that she reverence her husband. (5:33)
30. Children, obey your parents in the Lord. (6:1)

31. Honor your father and mother. (6:2)
32. Fathers, bring your children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (6:3)
33. Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ... As the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will doing service, as to the Lord. (6:5-7)
34. Masters, do the same things unto them. (6:9)
35. Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (6:10)
36. Put on the whole armor of God. (6:11)
37. Take unto you the whole armor of God. (6:13)
38. Stand. (6:14)
39. Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. (6:18)
40. Watch with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. (6:18)

Wiersbe: The commandments always call for the believer in Christ to continually depend on the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit who works in our inner man to obey the commands. When people say, "Don't talk to me about doctrine—just let me live my Christian life!" they are revealing their ignorance of the way the Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer. When we begin to grasp our high calling, we are ready to hear the exhortation to holy conduct. We cannot walk worthy of our calling unless we understand what our calling entails and how it in effect energizes our walk. There is a power [dunamis] that works [energeo; present tense continually] within us. We must still make the choice to obey, but the Spirit is working in us giving us the desire and the power to obey and please God.

Ephesians 4 is a powerful chapter outlining the principles of unity, growth, and transformation in the Christian life. It shifts from the doctrinal truths established in chapters 1-3 to the practical implications of these truths, emphasizing the need for a worthy walk, unity, maturity, and renewed living. It encourages us to embrace unity, utilize our spiritual gifts, and mature in faith. The contrast between the old and new self challenges us to renew our minds, living as new creations.

Paul has given his readers a marvelous revelation of their heavenly calling. Now with equal clarity he shows their responsibility for a corresponding conduct.

Eph. 4:1 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,

urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

The command to walk worthy of our calling does not mean that we are to somehow merit or earn our position. Rather, Paul is exhorting believers to live their lives so as to prove they belong to Christ.

*The Christian Life Must be Walked in a Manner Worthy*

Worthy: 2 Greek words

Strong's #2661 = kataxioo = To Be Counted Worthy; To Be Deemed Entirely Deserving

We are counted worthy because of what Christ has already done for us on the Cross.

He is the One who is really counted worthy. [used only 4x in Scripture]

Strong's #514 = axios = To Be Worthy Of; On The Grounds Of Being Fit, Meet,  
Prepared, Suitable [41x in Scripture]

Axios can mean to bring up the other beam of the scales to indicate equivalence or balance.

- Walk is on one side of the scales and calling on the other side of the scales.

Boice: The intellectual believer faces a great danger and often has a great weakness as a result of failing to overcome the danger. He loves doctrine so much that he stops with doctrine. He reads Ephesians 1-3 and delights in them; but when he comes to Eph. 4 he says, "Oh, the rest is just application. I know all about that." Then he skips ahead to the next doctrinal section and neglects what he perhaps most needs to assimilate.

On the other hand, some Christians are primarily oriented to experience. They thrive under the teaching found in the second half of this book. They want to know about spiritual gifts and their own exercise of them. They are excited about Paul's teaching about the family and other such things. This is "where it's at" for them; they find the doctrinal section dry and impractical.

We can never attach too much importance to doctrine, for it is out of the doctrines of God, man, and salvation that the direction and impetus for the living of the Christian life spring.

At the same time, we can never attach too much importance to practice, for it is the result of doctrine and proof of its divine nature.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: Worthy describes the "idea of equal weight or balancing."

Paul is exhorting them always to give equal weight in their lives to doctrine and practice.

There must be true balance, we must be 'worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called'.

Phil. 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

Key: Sanctification is an ongoing process whereby we grow in holiness and likeness of Christ.

- Conduct = peripateo = to go about or to walk around by walking in the Spirit  
Present imperative tense = Continuous dependence on the Holy Spirit
- Worthy = #514 = axios = counted worthy on the grounds of being prepared, suitable  
Your conduct balances your belief and knowledge of doctrine.

Paul exhorts the believers to live their lives like who they are -- citizens of heaven [Phi. 3:20+] so their conduct in a sense "*weighs as much as*" [worthy of] the Gospel they preach and the faith they profess. We are to practice what we preach. Our experience should measure up to our new standing as children of the King. We do not behave a certain way to go to heaven.

- Holy calling on one side. Holy walk on the other side. = balanced worthy walk

The concept of a Christian's walk that matches our Christian talk is reiterated in Ephesians 4-6.

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.



Eph. 5:8+ for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord;  
walk as children of light

Eph. 5:15-16 So then, be careful how you walk, not as unwise people but as wise,  
<sup>16</sup> [making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Paxson: A walk implies purpose, starting for a goal; progress,  
steadily advancing step by step; perseverance, keeping on until the goal is reached.

Consider: God has already determined the starting point of the walk, its goal,  
and the road over which the walk is to be made.

- Eph. 1:4 His starting point of the journey.  
just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,  
that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love.
- Eph. 5:27 His goal of the walk.  
That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory,  
having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
- Eph. 5:18+ His path and the power of this supernatural walk  
...Be filled with the Spirit [continuously filled; under the influence of]

I John 2:6+ He that saith he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.

Rom. 8:29 God's goal for every Christian is complete conformity to the image of His Son.

The real question: Will I make the daily choice to walk in the wealth  
"which He freely bestowed on me in the Beloved?" [Eph 1:6]

- If I am in Christ, I have access to the "unfathomable riches of Christ."

Remember God's promise to Joshua [Josh. 1:3] prior to entering the promised land.

"Every place on which the sole of your foot treads [darak = do warfare], I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses." Joshua had to "walk worthy" of his calling as commander so Israel might possess her possessions. Believers have something far better than a promised land, for in Christ we have a promised life. Paul therefore is begging (present tense) the saints to walk forth "on" and "in" these promises and in so doing they will be walking worthy of the calling with which they have been called.

God assured Joshua in Joshua 1:5 " I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you."

Not only is He "with us" as we walk worthy, but His Spirit is now in us, providing power to our inner man, so that we now can walk "according to the power that works (energeo in present tense) within us."

Col. 1:9-12 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

"...so as to walk [peripateo] in a manner worthy [axios] of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

<sup>11</sup> Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Note what is repeated: walk in a manner worthy; worthy of our calling; worthy of God.  
walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. Calling. God. Lord.

People should see us bearing fruit and increasing in the knowledge of the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet

to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Meet = #2427 hikanoó = make sufficient; qualify; equips with adequate power to be fit

In Colossians 1, walking worthy is tied to 4 personal characteristics:

1. being fruitful in every good work
2. steadily increasing in the knowledge of God
3. using the power of God to joyfully endure and patiently persevere, and
4. giving thanks to the Father for what He has done.

The Christian life is compared to a walk because:

- It starts with 1 step of faith. II Cor. 5:7
- It involves progress I Pet. 2:2b
- It demands balance and strength. Gal 5:16, Eph 5:18, Eph 3:16

If we do not learn to walk worthy,

We will never be able to run the race of faith  
stand in the battle. Heb 12:1-2 or  
Eph 6:11, 13

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.