

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 30 (#912210)
WEEK 6 (912346)
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a Production of
Precept Ministries International
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 30 – Your Walk is to Match Your Talk

FRIDAY

OPEN

I want to encourage you, Beloved, to stop and look at the way you’re walking. Does the way you walk, does the way you talk, does the way you dress, does the way you spend your money, does the way you relate to people really show who you are in Christ Jesus? Does your walk match your talk? This is what we want to look at today as we look at God’s precepts for life.

PART ONE

I am so glad to have you with me today and I am so excited about the lesson and about the rest of our study on the book of Ephesians and I am so thankful for you. I’m so thankful that you want to hear this program, that you want to study along with me, that you want to discover truth for

yourself, that you want to understand God’s precepts for life and the way to understand God’s precepts for life and I mean really get them under your belt is to study the Bible book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse and mark the text, observe the text to see what it’s saying. So that you can understand the correct interpretation of it because interpretation is discovering what God means and God means what He says. And so as you learn to observe the text and discover what God says automatically more and more as you observe then the meaning comes to the surface. Then you know how to live. Well what we’ve done is we’ve come to this awesome portion of Ephesians which is Ephesians chapter 4, 5 and 6. There’s six chapters in the book of Ephesians and, in a sense, they are divided equally. They’re divided into doctrine and then duty. He’s come now and he’s given us the teaching. Now in chapter 4, he’s changing and he’s going to establish us in the practicalities of what we have learned. Of course he’s he’s going to keep teaching us doctrine but watch what happens. You know this is Paul’s pattern. And when Paul writes an epistle normally he opens with a greeting and in the first part of that epistle he puts seeds of truth that he’s going to develop later. Then he tells you usually that he’s praying for you. Then he lays out that doctrine and after he lays out that doctrine he turns from doctrine to duty. He tells us how we are to live in the light of this truth. So watch what he’s doing. It’s like playing basketball. All right and he’s got the ball and that doctrinal truth and he’s dribbling down the court and as he dribbles down the court all of a sudden he stops and when he stops he pivots and this is what’s happening in Ephesians chapter 4. He stops at the end of chapter 3, now he pivots. He stops with a prayer and now he pivots and he’s going to say this. **“Therefore I...[beseech you, I] implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the [high] calling [that] you have [in Christ Jesus].”** (Ephesians 4:1) what he is saying is that you that your life is to be of the same weight, the same value of this truth that I have taught you. If you can imagine an old fashioned scale with a ten on each side and you put a weight

over here and that scale goes down because of that weight and then you balance it. All right, so what he has done is he has put down the doctrine. Now he wants to balance it with the way that you walk and so chapter 4 opens up this way. **“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.” (Ephesians 4:1)** Now let’s just stop and think about that calling with which you have been called. He says you have been chosen **“...in [Christ Jesus] before the foundation of the world....” (Ephesians 1:4a)** He says you have been **“...predestined...to adoption as sons....” (Ephesians 1:5a)** You have been [“redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:7a) Walk worthy of this high calling that you have in Christ Jesus. You are part of God’s eternal plan. An eternal plan that is summed up in Christ Jesus. Walk worthy. [“You have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:13b) Walk worthy. God is going to [redeem this purchased possession]. (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:14b) Though your body be burned and your ashes be scattered to the four winds or though you go down into the deep and the deep takes your body down to the depths of the ocean he says all of that will be redeemed because you are part of God’s purchased possession; walk worthy. He says, **“...know...the hope of [your] calling...,” (Ephesians 1:18b)** and walk worthy. Know that you are part of **“...[God’s] inheritance in the saints.” (Ephesians 1:18b)** Walk worthy. He says know this, you have that [“exceeding greatness of God’s power”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:19a) in you that [“seated you in heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that’s named”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:20b-21a) in heaven and earth and it’s seated you there because it seated Jesus there and you are **“...His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:23)** Walk worthy. He says, [“Once formerly you walked according to the prince of this world, but now you have been seated by God’s mercy in these

heavenly places”]. (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 2:2-6) [“You’ve been saved by grace through faith. It’s not of yourselves. It is a gift of God.”]
(PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 2:8) Walk worthy of that high calling. [“At one time you were a stranger, you were an alien, you were without hope, you were without God.”] (PARAPHRASE, 2:12) **“But now...you...have been brought near by the blood of Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 2:13)** Now you have become part of God’s new man. You are part of the temple of God. You are part of the household of God. You are the church; walk worthy. You are part of this awesome mystery of Jew and Gentile in one body. A [mystery that has been hidden for all these ages] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 3:9b) but is now been revealed through Christ Jesus. Walk worthy. He says you have [God’s power within you,] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 3:16b) Precious One, and you are [“loved with a breadth and a depth and a height and a length that you can’t begin to fathom.”]
(PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 3:17b-18) Walk worthy of your high calling in Christ Jesus, Beloved. You are now to live to the praise of the glory of God’s grace. The God who has done [exceedingly, abundantly above all that you can ask or think.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 3:20a) It is God who **“...fills all in all.” (1:23b)** And if God fills all in all and He’s filled you then, Beloved, walk worthy of this high calling in Christ Jesus. This is the call that He has for you. This is the call that He has for me. And, O Beloved, if we could remember that so that when I get up in the morning and when I start my day, and when I’m relating to my husband or my wife or to your children and then you walk out the door and you’re interacting with the people in the world, if you can remember who you are. If you can remember “Hey, I am to walk worthy of the high calling that I have in Christ Jesus. It will cause you, in a sense to lift up that head that hangs low. It will cause you, in a sense, to as you walk among the people to walk with a confidence not an arrogance but to walk with a confidence. A confidence of knowing who you are because of whose you are. It’s so neat when you open uh

Ephesians chapter 4, verse 1. Watch what he says. **“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord....” (Ephesians 4:1a)** I love it because Paul is my example to me. You know Paul said in Corinthians, he says, [“Now you be an imitator of me, even as I am of Christ Jesus.”] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 4:16) In Philippians chapter 3, he says, [“You watch the way others walk.” And you watch the way I walk and if those others aren’t walking the way I’m walking then something’s wrong with them. And something’s wrong with them because I’m walking the way I ought to walk.”] (PARAPHRASE, Philippians 3:16-19) You and I need to follow Paul’s example. We need to be an imitator of him even as he is of Christ Jesus. And how does Paul identify himself? Paul identifies himself as a prisoner of the Lord. I love this. I want you to go back and look at Ephesians chapter 3, verse 1. He says, **“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles.” (Ephesians 3:1)** he says I’m in prison, physical prison, because I am doing what God has called me to do. In chapter 4 though, it’s very interesting because he says it again. He says, **“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.” (Ephesians 4:1)** What is Paul saying? I think Paul is saying you know I am a prisoner of the Lord and I don’t think in this place that he’s necessarily referring to the fact that he’s in prison because of the Lord. I think he does that in the chapter proceeding that but he says I’m a prisoner of the Lord. I am shut up. I am incarcerated unto Jesus Christ. I am His prisoner and as His prisoner who is walking in the way that I ought to walk, I’m imploring you to be a prisoner of the Lord. I’m imploring you to come under His power, under His reign and to walk in a manner worthy of this one to whom you are a prisoner. It’s a prisoner of love. It’s a prisoner of choice. It’s someone that says, “You know, I’m locked up for Jesus. I’m locked into Jesus.” That’s what he’s saying. Well now watch what he says. [“I want you to walk in a manner worthy. Having the same weight of the calling with which you have been

called.”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:1) Now we’ve looked at that call and he says, “[And I want you to walk] ...**with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**” (4:2-3) He’s going to talk to them about their character and that’s what we’re going to look at when we come back because if you’re going to walk in a manner worthy of your high calling, it’s a matter first of all of character, integrity.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. I want you to know that there is such a sense of anticipation in my heart. Anticipation for you and for what God is going to work in you even as he’s been working it in me as I’ve been studying Ephesians chapter 4. Oh, how God has spoken to my heart. Oh how He has cleansed me with the washing of the water of His Word and you know, you may not need a bath but you may need a little scrubbing, a little wiping behind the ears, a little scrubbing behind the ears and that but I believe that God is going to take these lessons and He’s going to use them in your life in such a practical, practical way that it is going to really, in a sense, change your character or refine your character. That’s a little bit nicer and, in a sense, it’s going to take you and help you with your relationships and with your understanding of what God is doing and in your tolerance of other people that you disagree with. I’m just standing literally on tip toe just peering over and thinking, Oh, what is God going to do with you and with me as a result of this lesson. So as we look at Ephesians chapter 4 and he tells us how we’re to walk in a manner worthy of the high calling, he tells us that character is very important. And he gives us four things about our character that we need to make sure we’re walking in. We need to make sure that we are walking in humility. We need to make sure that we are walking in gentleness. We need to make sure that we are walking in patience with

others and if you just look at society today. We are so impatient with one another and there is kind of just a rage and I’m in a hurry and get out of my way and I’ve got all this pressure and so there’s a lack of patience. But also what you see is there is a lack of tolerance. Tolerance towards others. Tolerance towards those that we don’t agree with or who had little idiosyncrasies that we can’t stand. So what I want us to do is I want us to take these four qualities that he talks about in Ephesians chapter 4, verse 2 and I want us to look at these things that he says. He says we are to walk **“...with all humility....” (Ephesians 4:2a)** Now this humility means a lowliness of mind. It doesn’t mean that you look down on yourself. It doesn’t mean that you look at yourself and say, “Oh there’s nothing good about me. Aw, I’m just nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing.” No, that’s not true because you are something. You have seen who you are. He has been showing you this for the first three chapters of Ephesians, the first three chapters of this powerful, powerful epistle. He has shown you where you are. You are in Christ. But listen, that identification with Christ. You are in Christ. This is what He’s saying and because you are in Christ, you are to walk with humility. Now this comes out in Philippians chapter 2. So let’s go to Philippians chapter 2. Now remember the way that you find these epistles, these little letters of Paul’s is general electric power company, Galatians-Ephesians-Philippians and Colossians. So let’s go over to the right and let’s go to Philippians chapter 2. Now Philippians is an epistle that tells you how to have joy no matter what. And Philippians is an epistle that shows you that joy, in a sense, is spelled this way. Jesus first, others second and then you and as he takes you chapter 1 is Jesus, chapter 2 is others and chapter 3 is you where you count all things as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. And then you move into chapter 4 where you’ve got your mind under control and when you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. Well in Philippians chapter 2, we come to this famous, they call it the “kenosis” passage. “K-n-e-o-s-i-s” (*should be kenosis*) which is an

emptying passage and it says he emptied himself. So it says in verse 5 of Philippians chapter 2, **“Have this attitude....” (Philippians 2:5a)** King James says, **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5, KJV)** Now remember in Ephesians he has shown us that we are in Christ. And so if I’m in Christ, I’m to walk as Christ walked. I’m to have the attitude that Jesus Christ had because I’m to walk in a manner worthy of the high calling that I have in Christ. So what is this attitude? Verse 6, **“Who, although He existed in the form of God....” (Philippians 2:6a)** It’s talking about Jesus is God and although He’s been with God from the beginning and He existed in the form of God, He **“...did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped.” Philippians 2:6b)** In other words when it was time, in the fullness of time, in the summing up of all things as we saw in Ephesians chapter 1, for Christ to come to earth to be born of a virgin, to be without sin, to die on the cross for you to pay the penalty for your sins through the shedding of His blood, then to be buried and then to be resurrected from the dead when it was time for that Jesus didn’t say, “I’m not going. I’m just not going. Because up here I am honored. Up here I am esteemed. Up here I walk through the ivory palaces. Up here I hear praise to God and I’m not going! I’m not going to take myself and confine myself to the womb of a woman that I created. I’m not going to come forth from her and suckle at the breast of a human that I created. I’m not going to do it. I’m not going to learn to walk and to talk and to grow in stature.” No, Jesus did not say, “I’m not going to let go of those things.” But what did He do? Well, look at what it says in Philippians chapter 2 and I really, Precious one, want you to look at it. I was talking to somebody the other day, they listened to the radio program. As they listened to the radio program she says, “Many times I have your notes and I’ve written them up my arm because I’m driving and I just have my hand on the steering wheel and I write the notes on my arm and then I get to my office and I translate them off of my arm onto paper.” Whatever you’re doing be careful if you’re

driving. All right. So it says, “[He] **emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of [man. And] being found in [the] appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**” (Philippians 2:7-8) This is the humility of mind that he’s talking about. This is the humility that you and I are to walk in. It’s a humility that does not exalt yourself. Does not say, “Ok. Don’t you know who I am?” Now what do you see in the world? You walk out in the world and you see people pushing and grabbing and climbing on the backs of others trying to exalt themselves. And he says, “Look, if you’re going to walk in a manner worthy of the high calling that you have in Christ Jesus then, Precious One, you have to walk with humility.” You have to act like Jesus would act and the way that Jesus acts is He acts as a servant to others. Now, have you seen yourself as a servant? Have you seen yourself as one that does not exalt yourself but comes along and says, “Here, I’m going to think about you before I’m going to think about me. I’m going to look on the things of others and not on my own things.” If you’re going to walk your talk and you’re a follower of Jesus Christ, Beloved, this is the way you need to walk. It starts with the character of Christ. It starts with the mind of Christ. It starts with humility. Practice that today.