

Outline

I. Introduction

- A. Paul's plea to walk worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1-6)
- B. Opening prayer for understanding

II. The Illustration of Unity Through Teamwork

- A. High school marching band competition experience
 - 1. Superior rating required hard work from July through November
 - 2. Individual effort for collective achievement
- B. Parallels with team sports and group activities
- C. Application to the Church
 - 1. Ordinary people united in an extraordinary God
 - 2. Commitment to unity despite difficulty

III. Paul's Authority as a Prisoner

- A. Why Paul emphasizes his imprisonment
- B. Living and sacrificing for truth is worth it
- C. Walking worthy is worth suffering for the Gospel
- D. Eternal perspective outweighs temporary suffering

IV. Understanding "Walking Worthy"

- A. Definition of "worthy" (axiōs)
 - 1. Image of a balanced scale
 - 2. Daily life matching the weight of the gospel
- B. Biblical examples across Paul's letters

1. Colossians 1:10

2. Philippians 1:27

C. The Gospel as weighty, not lightweight

D. The imbalance in most people's lives

1. Automobile vs. matchbox car illustration

2. Need for balance between calling and obedience

V. Five Attitudes for Walking Worthy (Verses 2-3)

A. Humility

B. Gentleness

C. Patience

D. Bearing with one another in love

E. Eagerness to maintain unity of the Spirit in peace

VI. Understanding Biblical Humility

A. What humility is NOT

1. Not placid regarding truth

2. Not self-belittling or doubting God

3. Not compromising when challenged

B. What humility IS

1. Bold, determined self-sacrifice

2. Recognizing Jesus as center

3. Submitting to God's truth

C. God as king, not self

D. Diligence in keeping unity

VII. Unity Versus Uniformity

- A. Unity is not about preferences
 - 1. Musical style
 - 2. Ministry programming
 - 3. Service times or dress codes
- B. Unity is primarily about character
- C. Unity through humility and lowliness of mind
- D. Unity must be protected—it doesn't maintain itself
- E. John MacArthur's quote: "Unity isn't uniformity; it's harmony"

VIII. The Seven "Ones" of Christian Unity (Verses 4-6)

- A. One Body
 - 1. Universal church of all believers
 - 2. Removes denominational exclusivity
 - 3. Unity across practice differences
 - 4. Belonging to Christ and each other

- B. One Spirit
 - 1. The Holy Spirit indwells and empowers
 - 2. Unity across ethnic, social, cultural lines
 - 3. Love and acceptance beyond beliefs
 - 4. Highest level of spiritual agreement, not compromise

- C. One Hope
 - 1. Shared Christian future
 - 2. Not mere desire but confident expectation

3. Assured future with the Father

D. One Lord

1. Jesus Christ's exclusive lordship

2. One master, one king

3. Unity centered in Christ alone

E. One Faith

1. Avoiding unity without truth or truth without unity

2. Rooted in Gospel and Scripture

3. Compassionate yet uncompromising

F. One Baptism

1. Shared experience of all believers

2. Public testimony of separation unto Christ

3. One entrance into one people under one Lord

G. One God and Father of All

1. Christianity as monotheistic

2. God as Father calling believers His children

3. God's sovereignty and supremacy

4. Foundation of church unity is theological

IX. Conclusion

A. Unity rests in the one God

B. God rules over, works for, and indwells His people