

EPHESIANS

The **Big** Picture

Chapters 1-3		Chapters 4-6
The <i>Calling</i> of the Church		The <i>Conduct</i> [walk] of the Church
They have been blessed with every Spiritual Blessings in Christ (1:3-14)	WALK	Walk in <i>unity</i> (4:1-16)
Prayer for revelation that they might know Christ better (1:15-23)	In a manner	Walk in <i>holiness</i> (4:17-32)
They have been united with Christ individually (2:1-10)	Worthy of the	Walk in <i>love</i> (5:1-6)
Jews and Gentiles have been united with Christ corporately (2:11-22)	CALLING	Walk in the <i>light</i> (5:7-14)
Parenthesis on the mystery concerning the Gentiles inclusion in God's family (3:1-13)	To which you	Walk in <i>wisdom</i> (5:15-6:9)
Prayer for strength and power that (3:14-21)	have	<i>Stand</i> in spiritual warfare (6:10-20)
	Been called	
	(4:1)	

To 'Walk' As A Christian—The COMMAND:

1. The goal: God “chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight” (1:4).
 - This means that all believers are guaranteed to grow in holiness to some degree because we are all now God’s “**workmanship**,” which means that all those who have the Spirit are now “being created in Christ Jesus to do good works, in which God has prepared in advance, in order that we might **WALK** in them” (2:10).

2. These good works include:
 - “To **WALK** worthy of the calling of which you were called” (4:1) = explained in 4:2-3.

 - To “no longer **WALK** as the Gentiles **WALK** in the futility of their minds . . . [but] to be made new in the attitude of your minds” (4:17, 23) = explained in 4:25-32.

 - To “**WALK** in love, just as also Christ loved us and gave himself up for us” (5:2) = explained in 5:1-4.

 - To “**WALK** as children of light” (5:8) = explained in 5:9-12.

 - To “**WALK** not as unwise but as wise” (5:15) = explained in 5:17-6:9.

To ‘Walk’ As A Christian—The HOW:

1. The goal:

- For God’s glory (1:6, 12, 14).
- To show the riches of God’s grace (2:7)
- To make known God’s magnificent wisdom (3:10) = The church lives out her calling when she displays the character of God.
- God’s glory (3:21)

2. Because Christians are “members of God’s household . . . a holy temple in the Lord . . . a **DWELLING** in which God lives by his Spirit” (2:19-22), Paul prays (“For this reason” in 3:1, 14) that his readers might have:

Prayer in Chapter 1	Prayer in Chapter 3
<p>That believers might experience God’s POWER = see 1:19-21; 2:4-6.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul basically prays that God might reveal himself to them (“spirit of wisdom [don’t miss the connection with 3:10] and revelation”) and that they might have eyes to see what he reveals (“I pray that the eyes of your hearts may be enlightened”). • The ultimate goal of this prayer is that they might experience God’s resurrection power in Christ (explained in 2:4-6). • Understanding the practical significance of 2:4-6: the obstacles to walking in good works are essentially selfishness/an unwillingness to give up my rights/a refusal to sacrifice for others/the need to have my needs met... • Being raised with Christ sets us free. 	<p>That believers might experience POWER so that they might be filled with God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul basically prays here that the Spirit might <i>strengthen</i> his readers so that they might experience the infinite love of Christ with the ultimate goal that they might be filled with all the fullness of God. (Notice the power/strength words in here that link back to the prayer in chap. 1). • Notice the means to being filled with God: grasping the love of Christ. See again 2:4-6. • In other words, Paul prays that his readers might be so transformed <i>inwardly</i> (chaps. 1-3)—filled with God—that may be transformed <i>outwardly</i> (chaps. 4-6)—become like God (5:1-2).

3. If we are to walk we must first be able to stand: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the *strength* of his might [power].” Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (6:10-11).

- The marriage relationship is designed to be a picture/visible display of Christ and the church (5:25ff).
- God has given us gifted people within the church to this end: 4:7-13 (illustration of maturity: 3 stages in marriage).

EPHESIANS: Summary

The church will glorify God (i.e., make him look like he truly is = glorious) when:

- We live out the description given in chaps. 4-6.
- But this will only happen when we see who Christ is (first prayer) and experience his love (second prayer).
- Seeing Christ and experiencing his love is the **ONLY** path to growth and maturity. Only then will we experience the power to stand so that we may walk. Only when we are filled with God himself and his power (first and second prayer) will we be able to imitate him (5:1-2) and be a visible demonstration to the world of who he is (3:21).