

Date: July 5, 2026

Series: Own the Mission: Belong, Become, Be Sent

Title: Followers vs. Fans

Text: Ephesians 4:1–3, 14, 17, 31–32



I. Walk Worthy of Your Calling (4:1–3)

A. The Appeal (v. 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*

1. **Therefore** – Practical section based on the theology of Chapters 1, 2 & 3
2. **Prisoner** – Someone whose life has been radically changed
 - His work is never over
 - He never takes off his uniform
3. **Urge** – Intense pleading, not commanding, must be from the heart
 - Spiritual act of service (reasonable service) – Romans 12:1
4. **Worthy** – Equalizing the scales
 - Circumstances shouldn't affect worthiness, no matter how bad they might be
 - Walking worthy may lead to prison and death as it did for Paul, but it should never change our commitment to walk worthy for our Lord.
5. **Calling** – According to HIS purpose
 - My vocation, who I am, what I do in life
 - My Christian duty – Romans 8:28

B. The Character of a Worthy Walk (v. 2) – *'with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,'*

1. **Humility** – Not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less.
 - Defined as a proper, honest perspective of yourself in relation to God and other
 - Pride – opposite of humility - defined as overly confident in and attention to one's own skills, accomplishments, possessions, or position.

"Pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you." – Andrew Murray

 - "I have only done my duty." – **Luke 17:10**

"When we have done a job well or served faithfully over a long time, our attitude should be, 'I have only done my duty'". – Jerry Bridges
2. **Gentleness (meekness)** – We don't lose our power, we harness it!
 - Horse that has been broken, all power and strength is useful for the master.
3. **Patience** – A patient person never argues with God's plan!
 - Endure negative circumstances
 - Cope with difficult people & think of others

4. **Bearing with one another in love** – urging believers to exercise patience, tolerance, and loving restraint in their relationships.

- Will not be easy
- If we do not change, people will have to bear with us.

C. The Commitment (v. 3) – “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

1. **Eager to maintain** – earnestly or zealously giving diligence to keep (maintain) the unity of the Spirit
2. **Bond of peace** – maintained by ‘love’. – Colossians 3:14-15

II. The Goal: Spiritual Maturity (vs. 4:14, 17, 31-32)

- A. Stability Against False Teaching (v. 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.***

- No longer spiritual children.
- Not tossed by every false doctrine.

- B. Called to a Transformed Lifestyle (v. 17) – *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.*”**

- Commanded to abandon their former, worldly way of thinking to fully embrace their new life in Christ

(v. 31) *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.*

- Apostle Paul is addressing the church, these are vices, immoral and wicked behavior.

(v. 32) *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*”

- “*You will never take sin seriously, until you understand what it cost to forgive it.*” – Quote by Pastor Fabarez

Questions:

- 1) If God could write you a letter, what do you think he would urge you to change in your life?
- 2) Who has God put in your life that you need to bear with in love? Should you go and make amends with that person?
- 3) This past week, to whom have you been kind or compassionate?