

Ephesians 4:1-24
Walk in a Manor Worthy of Your Calling

- Does your life look different since you asked Jesus to take control?
- How does your life look different?
- Can people see Jesus in your life?

Are you more humble, or do you take credit for the good that is going on in your life? Are you more gentle, or are you harsh and hard? Are you more patient? Do you love others better, or do you have hate in your heart? Do you forgive others, or are you full of unforgiveness and resentment? Do you want peace in life and in relationships, or do you have a lot of descension, division and drama in your life? Do you listen to God's Word?

When you repent of your sins and believe in Christ as your Master, His mercy and grace should show up in these areas. If they do not, you might not be saved.

Ask Jesus to give you these characteristics. Ask Jesus to help you with this.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (Rob's commentary, we see them spiritually, we see them in need of Jesus or saved by Jesus). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation (Rob's commentary, if we know Jesus He has made us new and is making us new). The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God (Rob's commentary, God changes us when we are saved and He keeps making us better if we walk with Him), who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation (Rob's commentary, it is our job given to us by God to help others know Christ and grow in Christ). 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ (Rob's commentary, how can you be a good ambassador for Jesus is you look like you did when you were lost), God making his appeal through us (Rob's commentary, do you talk to people about Jesus). We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Vs 1-7 Paul calls himself a prisoner of the Lord. Most of the time being a prisoner would be bad. Being a prisoner of the Lord is good. He keeps us captive doing His good work. He forgives us and blesses us. He gives us everything we need and often gives us many of our wants! Paul was also a literal prisoner for the Lord.

Paul urges us, as Christians, to walk in a manor worthy of our calling.

Are you walking with Christ? Are you living in a manor worthy of Jesus calling?

In what area of your life do you need to ask God to help you walk better?

God specifically tells us what areas of life He wants us to walk in a worthy manor!

- Humility

- Gentleness
- Patience
- Loving others even when it is hard
- Living in peace and desiring peace
- One with church body, Spirit of God, one hope in Jesus, one God, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, God and Father, and grace was given as a gift to you!

Look at how many times God says “one”. God wants us united and together.

God hates division, dissension, and separation. He loves unity.

Ephesians 4:8 refers to Psalm 68:18 If Jesus is your Lord and He is head of the church, He helps us by giving us gifts. These gifts are to be used for the glory of God and they are to edify and benefit others, especially the church. ~

Vs 11- Some say the gifts Paul refers to were the leaders of the church. I know Randy, John, and Olaf are gifts to me and this church.

Apostles- had apostolic calling by God to lead the New Testament church and write. These apostles walked with Jesus and were alive during the time Jesus’ apostles were alive.

Prophet- can be someone speaking the words of God. This could be instructional, can be specific, and can be prophetic. Think of it this way..... one man who God gives a word to that speaks faithfully to a certain thing or moment.

Evangelist- boldly speaks the Gospel outwardly

Shepards- pastors/elders of the church

Teachers- Teach the word and lead others to understand and live out the Word of God. This could be pastors or it could be special people in the Lord’s church who teach His Word and help others to understand it and live it out.

Notice—These gifts are given to leaders of the church to pass on to the body so the people can do the ministry. How does the church proclaim Jesus, grow the church, build community, and serve? THE PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH ARE THE CHURCH!

The gifts that God gives us bless and help others and they honor the Lord. These gifts are from God to us for His church and others.

What is your gifting? Do you use it at church or hold it for yourself?

PRAY (TALK TO GOD) ~ GATHER (IN CHURCH) ~
PRAISE (WORSHIP) ~ GROW (IN YOUR WALK WITH THE
Lord) ~ SERVE (GOD AND OTHERS)

Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve

God gives us the church to grow and mature in the Lord. How can someone reach spiritual maturity and function together with other Christians as a body if they never go to church? God's plan is for the church to gather in unity and then set out and minister to the world during the week.

God intends you to grow up in your family and grow up with your church family! That is His plan. The world wants to destroy the family and does not prioritize the church.

God wants you to grow into spiritual maturity. True maturity looks like Jesus. We should prayerfully aspire for that.

What does maturity look like?

1. Knowing the Word of God, and with God's help, living the word of God.
2. Using your gifts for the Lord, His church, and the world.
3. When you say no to temptation and yes to God, you are seeking God's best for yourself.
4. When we say yes to temptation, we are settling for something less than God wants for us or can give to us!

When we know Jesus, and live for Jesus, the world does not toss us around. We are steady, stable, consistent, and focused on the Lord.

God gives us His church and gifting to grow us up in the Spirit. Jesus is the head of the church, and Jesus holds us together. UNIFIED. The church equips us. Each of us is important and each of us does our part, the church builds itself up and builds others up in love.

What does a mature church look like?

A mature church is focused on the Lord, not blown around by the world A mature church is growing and working together A mature church is loving. A mature church serves God and others.

A mature church is made up of Christians who do not look like we did when we were lost.

We are made in the image of God and we look like it.

A mature church is not hard hearted, sensual, ignorant, calloused, greedy, impure, corrupt, or deceitful.

We were like that and now, as prisoners of Jesus, we are different.

Church, (Oak Hill Baptist Church), you are saved by God's grace, and now you are to take off the old self and put on God. This means you have a renewed mind, and a new self; you are being made in the likeness of Jesus, and you are righteous and holy in the eyes of God.