

# An amazing salvation yet a horrifying response

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## An amazing salvation yet a horrifying response

### Introduction

Our world is in chaos.

There is enmity, disunity, conflicts, wars, hatred, disputes every where.

Sadly even within the church, churches are divided, doctrinal, philosophically, racially and over many different areas.

At the core of disunity in the church lies a key problem.

God has blessed you with an amazing salvation, Jesus, our creator became a man, obeyed God perfectly, died for your and my sins, reconciled us, turned away Gods wrath, gave us a family, a future, incorporated us into his kingdom and yet how do we respond to our amazing salvation?

We live like the world.

Believers lives do not match their profession.

Believers lives should look radically different to the world yet the horrifying reality

is that for many, this is simply a pipe dream.

Their conduct do not match their salvation.

Their hearts are not welcoming to Christ, and their practice reflects this.

Our passage this morning connects with the earlier chapters and Paul's prayer.

If believers were to be strengthened by the HS in their hearts to yield to Him in every area, it results in Jesus being welcomed in their hearts, which manifests Christ love which results in believers being filled with the fullness of God.

The outflow of this would then be a walk worthy of their salvation.

A worthy walk unites believers within the body of Christ.

An unworthy walk divides believers.

A united body of Christ is a corporate witness to the world that :

- Identifying Christ's disciple's (John 13:35)
- solidifying belief that God the Father had sent Jesus (John 17:21)

A divide body displays subtracts from that witness.

## Reading

### **Ephesians 4:1–6** ESV

<sup>1</sup> I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

<sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—

<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

## Proposition

3 keys to walk like a believer to maintain unity in the church

1. You are exhorted to walk worthily vs1
2. You have the tools to walk worthily vs 2-3
3. You have the basis to walk worthily vs

## 1. You are exhorted to walk worthily vs1

**Ephesians 4:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> 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 I therefore,**

Paul exhorts the believers, based on the doctrines he taught in chapters 1-3

This pattern is followed by Paul in several of his letters

- Rom 1-11 he had explained the doctrine, concludes in a doxology and then

explains how to live out that doctrine ch 12 onward

- Gal 1-4 He taught the doctrines relating to Christian liberty and in ch 5-6 He explains how to live that out

Your theology(what you believe about God and His will) affects your thinking which in turn affects your practice.

What you believe affects what you do.

Example If you believed God cannot see in the dark, Many would think this gives you permission to sin in the dark.

But if you believed God sees everything in the dark and that He is all present, next time you might choose to sin, this belief might restrain you. Knowing Jesus is with me in my heart, He knows everything even my thoughts and He is present.

## **a prisoner for the Lord,**

In Eph 3:1 Paul called himself a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

He understood that Jesus had allowed his imprisonment to accomplish His Divine purposes, despite Paul being restricted from worshipping with other believers.

In Eph 4:1 he stated that He is a prisoner for the Lord, but the Greek would read, A prisoner in Lord, which stresses Paul's union in Christ.

Paul understood that being in Christ, resulted in his obedience to God, which led to him being a missionary to the Gentiles which included him being imprisoned for His sake.

The principle you need to take from this:

Believers are united in Christ, but also united in suffering and experiencing persecution.

**Matthew 10:24–25 ESV**

<sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

<sup>25</sup> It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

Jesus faced insult, injury and death, don't be surprised if this world hates you too and treats you likewise.

**Matthew 5:11–12 ESV**

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,**

Urge you = encouraging, exhorting, making a strong appeal to them, having an intense strong feeling, strong desire and literally begging them.

Paul was making this strong appeal to the believers to:

***walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,***

The term **walk** refers to the believers conduct, their lives, their lifestyles

Worthy= suitable,fitting or proper corresponding to what is expected, comes from a term meaning equal weight, or to balance the scales.

**1 Thessalonians 2:12 ESV**

<sup>12</sup> we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

We use to have a scale, which made you happy. It use to tell me that I am 5-7 kg

lighter than I actually was. Sadly we eventually purchased a digital one, and to our shock, our family discovered we were all 7kg heavier than what the old scale told us. The problem was that we were not measuring our weight according to the right standard. This led to us exercising more and eating less.

You and I should measure our conduct with an accurate scale, accurate standard.

The standard is Jesus

Because His perfect

**Worthy** explains the criteria or the standard that the readers' lives were expected to conform to.

**Acts 26:20 ESV**

<sup>20</sup> but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

What is worthy?

Paul defines it as "of the calling to which you have been called"

Your calling and conduct should be in balance

Calling refers to God's sovereign and effectual call, it refers to their salvation and union with Jesus.

- God chose you before the foundation of the earth (Eph 1:4)
- God sent a preacher who preached the gospel (Rom 10:14-17)
- God then issued an effectual call in the heart of the believer and made them spiritually alive (Eph 2:4-5)
- God in that instant, united you with Christ, and His Holiness, His righteousness was credited to your account and your sin was paid for by Jesus 2000 years ago

on the cross.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** ESV

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Worthy therefor means, to measure up or line up with Christ calling on your life, which means His righteousness

Jesus not only saved you but you were also position ally with made you perfectly righteousness

Paul urged his readers live lives that match their position in Christ

Position and practice should be in balance

The process towards Christ likeness is called Sanctification

If your practice does not match your position, it divides and breaks up relationships

Just think about how much hurt you have experienced when peoples conduct do not match their claim to be believers in marriage, in church, in work situations and you will understand why Paul is making this urgent appeal.

When your Sunday walk and Monday walk should never differ.

## **Application**

The horrifying reality is however that for many a believer, their life conduct do not balance the fact that God saved them and that their are position ally righteous.

Is this true in your life, that your conduct does not match who you are in Christ?

Could it be

1. That you were never truly saved, that you only have intellectual faith or emotional faith.
2. Or Jesus may be in your life, but He has not been welcomed to settle down and be master over every area of your life.

The biggest challenge you and I face in our walks with God is that often what we believe does not balance with what we do.

Gods word this morning is urging you and I to evaluate our conduct and walk your walk asking the question.

Is this what the life of a believer should look like ?

Does your words, your actions, your attitudes declare to the watching world that you are a true believer, living differently to the world?

Does your church involvement show that your passionate about Jesus?

Does your family relationships show Jesus is master in how you relate with your wife in a loving and understanding manner?

Does your commitment to Christ wives be seen in your submission to your husband and respect to your husband?

Children, do you obey and respect your parents because Jesus wants you to do so.

If not, may I encourage you to confess your sin to Jesus, choose to repent and trust Him for forgiveness and the enablement through His Spirit to walk in a worthy manner.

## 2. You have the tools to walk worthily vs 2-3

**Ephesians 4:2-3 ESV**

<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,



<sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

## **with all humility and gentleness, with patience,**

Paul first describes the attitude and then the practice of a person who walks in a worthy manner

The attitude that defines the worthy walk: humility, gentleness, patience

**Humility** in Greek and Roman cultures was viewed as a vice and practised only by slaves. The Romans looked down upon the Christians for pursuing humility.

The world then and today exalts pride and views humility as weakness.

You might recall:

1. Satan's sin that caused him to fall, was Pride

### **Isaiah 14:12–15 ESV**

<sup>12</sup> “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

<sup>13</sup> You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north;

<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

<sup>15</sup> But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

2. Adam and Eve's sin in the fall, Gen 3 was to try and exalt themselves above God and His commands choosing to rebel against God.

Pride at its core is idolatry of self

Jesus said to enter His kingdom, to be saved requires humility(Mt 5:3).

**Matthew 18:3–4 ESV**

<sup>3</sup> and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Humility means that you are self aware of your own unworthiness and exalt Christ’s worthiness.

Humility is an **attitude** wherein we recognise our own insignificance and unworthiness before God and attribute to Him the Supreme honour, praise, prerogatives, rights privileges, worship, devotion, authority, submission and obedience He deserves.(Dr Wayne Mack)

Its having a slave mindset, denying self but being other focused

Its embracing the mind of Christ

Humility produces **gentleness**(meekness).

Because a humble person does not need to defend his or her status, which allows them to respond in a gentle manner.

How often as parents were more angry because our kids did not listen to me, that the fact that they sinned against God.

Biblical gentleness is a term used to describe wild animals that have been tamed.

These animals still have their strength but their will is under control of their master.

It is the opposite of self assertion, rudeness, roughness or harshness.

It means that your power and emotions are under divine control

Gentleness is power under control. Pr 16:32

A gentle person has control over his or her emotions

Jesus when he was arrested demonstrated gentleness in that instead of using His power to call Mt 26:53 12 legions of angels to defend himself, He used it to obey God the Father.

David demonstrated it when he chose not to kill Saul when he had the opportunity(1 Sam 24:1-7

- It is the fruit of the Spirit.
- It is beneficial in helping to restore someone who is sinning.Gal 6:1
- Meek people are quick to hear and obey Gods word.Jam 1:21
- They are willing to defend the gospel, yet do so gently
- It is the demeanor of Godly women. 1Pet 3:4

You show gentleness when instead of being harsh or in your words, you are gracious.

Instead of: You starting by blaming, You start by loving

Instead of shouting, you talk in a loving manner

You slow down and and ask yourself, how would Jesus deal with this issue, and then you speak.

**Humility** produces **gentleness**, which in turn produces **patience**.

This term comes from the Gk which means long suffering or long tempered.

It is commanded by God 1Thes 5:14

The patient believer endures the grief people may cause them and entrust vengeance to the Lord.

It involves self restraint, the willingness to endure grief caused by others.

It is a reflection of God who is long suffering

It too is a fruit of the Spirit(Gal 5:23)

If the HS is in control of your heart, then you will demonstrate both gentleness and patience.

The attitudes of humility, gentleness and patience creates an atmosphere fostering unity among believers.

An artisan needs two things, the correct attitude or mindset, and then using his tools he needs to actually do the job required.

Paul after describing the correct attitude shares two things you should do to walk worthily.

1. bearing with one another in love

2 eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace

In the Greek "Bearing" means to endure or tolerate, put up with something unpleasant or difficult either on your behalf or someone else's behalf

Jesus had to bear with the fact the people that he describes as faithless.generation.

**Matthew 17:17 ESV**

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me."

The Thessalonians were commended for bearing up under persecution.

### **2 Thessalonians 1:4 ESV**

<sup>4</sup> Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

Forbearance is demonstrated in the context of facing trouble like difficult people.

The Grammar indicates that its something you need to do yourself in an ongoing basis.

Church brings together sinful, difficult,different and sometimes irritating people.

Sinful people , hurt one another in so many ways.

And yet God wants the church to be united, to be one, which means you are encouraged to endure and tolerate being hurt by other people in love.

What has helped me is to look at Jesus who demonstrated such great sacrificial love for me, a sinful, irritating, hardheaded, difficult person. He dies for me, for my sin.

He endured my stubborn resistance to the gospel.

Believer, Gods Word calls you and I to in love tolerate, to bear up with the difficulties you may face in the body of Christ.

Not only that 2ndly you must be

### **3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Eager= diligent, earnest, conscientious in discharging an obligation, zealous, make intense effort to or work hard to do something

TO maintain= to keep in a certain state, to guard, preserve, to cause a state to continue

Unity = the quality of being united into one, oneness, being in harmony, in accord

of the spirit= implies that the unity is HS produced, its the work of the spirit that binds believers together

in the bond = the connection, to be joined together

of peace= Peace is established by the gospel, Jesus is described as being our peace Eph 2:14

What joins you and I together through the HS is Jesus.

Basically Paul was saying to walk worthily requires you to make every effort, to **maintain** in an ongoing basis the sense of oneness, harmony, unity that is produced by the HS in the connections that we have with one another through Jesus, who is our peace.

You are not called to create the unity, but to maintain the unity that is already there.

## **Application**

1. repent and trust Christ as Saviour and Lord would be the first step for any unbeliever to walk worthily.

Before you can walk you need to be spiritually alive

2. Secondly consider Jesus, who even as creator of the universe, humbled himself became a man and took on the form of a slave. If you want to be like Jesus, embrace viewing yourself as a slave for Jesus, to exalt Him and serve others.

3. Thirdly, you need to walk in yieldedness to God the HS. This will produce the fruit of Gentleness, and patience in your heart.(Allow Jesus to be master of all the rooms of your heart)Gal 5:22-23

4. Fourthly your called to endure and tolerate people, who rub you up the wrong way.

- a. You have the choice to run from them, or run to them to be reconciled with them.
- b. If there is sin, it needs to be confessed and forgiven
- c. If there is lack of communication, clarity is needed
- d. if there is preference issues, consider the other more important than yourself

Love requires you to restrain yourself, by embracing that attitude of humility, gentleness and kindness and seek the best for them.

5. Finally, maintaining oneness takes hard effort, it requires:

- a. You to remind yourself that Jesus is peace and that what connects you with this person is Jesus.
- b. IT requires thinking Biblically about how you should respond to the person
- c. it requires you to know your bible and to be reading it,
- d. it requires much prayer

This is what church is about, this is what it means to be walking worthily, to have a your conduct match your salvation, your practice match your position resulting in unity .

6. Finally don't wait for the other person, take the initiative to walk worthily of your calling.

But the question remains, what is it that ties you and I together across the many boundaries.

What unites all believers.

This brings us to the 3rd point

### 3. You have the basis to walk worthily vs 4-6

**Ephesians 4:4–6 ESV**

<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—

<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Paul repeats the term “one” seven times which stresses the unity in the church.

Paul simply lists the foundational elements centered on the triune God that provides the basis for the spiritual unity for believers.

Just as the reality of corona Virus unites the world, to fight one virus, so these truths unite believers in all the world.

### **There is one body**

One Body refers to the universal church, all believers (both Jews and Gentiles) in the NT church that have placed their faith in Christ death and resurrection for salvation and the forgiveness of sins.

The Jews and Gentiles are no longer two entities, but one new entity in Christ.



Every believer is incorporated in the body of Christ.

In Christ eyes there is not Baptists, Dutch Reformed, Prespetarian, Methodist etc, there is only the body of Christ, the kingdom of God or of Satan.

## **and one Spirit**

Believers are the temple of the HS.1 Cor 3:16-17

What characterises every believer is that the HS indwells them all

He provides access to God the Father (Eph 2:18) and is the pledge of every believers inheritance

It is through the one Spirit that all believers are placed into the one Body.

### **1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV**

<sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—**

The reality is that all true believers have a common hope regarding what await for them in the future.

Believers have a common confident, firm future expectation of good based on the promises of God.

### **Colossians 1:5 ESV**

<sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

There is this eager expectation that we shall all meet Jesus, be with Him in the home that He had prepared for you and me.

There is sure expectation:

- that Jesus will return
- that we will receive glorified bodies
- that we will be delivered from the presence of sin, pain and death
- that there awaits future glory far beyond any suffering we may experience now Rom 8:18
- And many more realities that are based on the Scriptures.

## **5 one Lord,**

The world is full of so called saviours, man made, based on human effort.

But the Bible is very clear.

### **Acts 4:10–12 ESV**

<sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

<sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

<sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Every true believer is united on this truth.

There is only one Savior, only one divine means to be reconciled with the infinity holy and infinitely angry God.

That is through repentance and faith in Christ who died and rose again for the forgiveness of your sins.

## **one faith,**

One faith refers most likely to subjective faith in Christ.

There is only one true saving faith.(Col 2:7)

True saving Faith believes intellectually the facts, embraces the gospel and trusts or relies totally upon Jesus, who dies and rose again for the forgiveness of sins and salvation.

Its a faith that is displayed in the fruits of a changed life.

## **one baptism,**

Paul is most likely not referring to spirit Baptism here, but to water baptism.

There is only one outward symbol that testifies to the church that the believer is now identifying themselves with Jesus Christ.

It is the outward a picture of the believers:

- union with Christ's death and resurrection
- their union with the invisible church
- it signifies and testifies to the church their profession of faith in Jesus
- its a sign of the new covenant that believers have with Christ

Biblical there is only one way

## **6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

The basic belief of the OT believers were that there is one God.

### **Deuteronomy 6:4 ESV**

<sup>4</sup> "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

God's oneness is foundational to Christianity.

The repeated mention of all refers to all believers, not all mankind.

The Bible does not teach the universal fatherhood of God.

God the Father is the Father of all who believe in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

### **John 1:12 ESV**

<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Satan is the Father of those who do-not (John 8:44)

**God the Father is over all=** indicates His **sovereignty** over all believers

**The Father is through all=** implies that He is **imminent**(close, present and involved) and accomplishes His purposes through believers

The Father is **in all believers=** Implying His presence through the indwelling HS and ultimately His intention to make His home with Christ in the believers heart.

Note that the trinity is very much a part of this list.

1. The HS places all believers into the one body of Christ just as they were called to one common hope as believers. vs 4
2. Sinners are saved through faith in Christ and baptised as outward testimony of

their profession of faith vs 5

3. God the Father sovereign, immanent and present in all believers through His Spirit vs 6

So what unites the biblical foundation for unity in the church is the triune God.

The trinity is the core model and basis for unity in the church.

The trinity is one divine nature which is a unity of three distinct persons, the Father, The Son and the HS.

God exists eternally as three persons, the Father, Son and HS and each person is fully God and there is one God

Man was created in the image of God Gen 1:27, and so as people are saved, believers are to reflect that oneness, the unity of the trinity in Marriage and in the body of Christ, the church.

**In summary**, Paul urges the believers then and your the reader this morning to conduct your life in a manner that corresponds with the fact that God had saved you.

This walk is a walk is characterised by the attitude of humility, which produces gentleness which produces patience. Its a walk which in love tolerates and endure difficult and sinful people, and makes all effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the Church.

This unity is based on the work of the trinity, in which through the HS believers are united in one body, in one hope being indwelt by the one Spirit.

This happens as they place their one faith in the one Lord Jesus, and identify themselves as being united with Christ in one water Baptism.

The one God and Father is sovereign over every believer, immanent (God is close and present) accomplishing His plans through believers and indwells every believer through His Spirit.

So we see ultimately walking worthily as a true believer unites believers and reflects the triune God to the world.

Jesus prayed

**John 17:19–22** *ESV*

<sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

<sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

<sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

<sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

## **Application**

1. You don't need to establish this unity, this bond of peace has already been established through the gospel.
2. You are called to maintain that unity.
3. You do this:
  - a. by walking worthily
    - i. by embracing a humble attitude
    - ii. by being gentle,
    - iii. by being patience , long suffering
    - iv. by enduring/tolerating the unpleasantness of others towards you

- v. by actually making the effort to maintain the unity with others
- 4. And the foundation for all of this is the based the work of the triune God, One body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one Father God.
- 5. Friends come and go, but you will spend eternity in the Family of God as believers united by the HS, connected in peace , because of Jesus.

## Conclusion

3 keys to walk like a believer to maintains unity in the church

1. You are exhorted to walk worthily vs1 balancing your conduct with your position as believer
2. You have the tools to walk worthily vs 2-3, Attitude of humility, gentleness, patience and the call to tolerate others and to work hard at maintaining that unity.
3. You have the basis to walk worthily vs 4-6, God our triune God has laid the foundation:One body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one Father God.