

Ephesians 3:14-21

3:14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
3:15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,
3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,
3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
3:18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
3:19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.
3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,
3:21 to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.
Amen.

Questions Ephesians 3:14-21

Having just given a detailed explanation of what God has done for all believers, Paul prays for the Ephesians, asking the Father to work in such a way that they might be able to fully comprehend and experience all God has for them.

1. Who does Paul pray to? (vs. 14-15) How does Paul describe God? What is the significance of his description? What should motivate us?
2. What is the content of Paul's prayer? (vs. 16-19) How is that accomplished? What is necessary for its accomplishment?
3. Why pray at all? (vs. 20-21) What is our confidence?
4. What are the implications of Paul's prayer for our prayers?

Figurative Uses of "walk" (peripateo)

Chapter 4 is a major transition in the book of Ephesians as is evident from verse 1: to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called." Having just finished his extensive treatment of the calling we have as believers, Paul now turns to the practical implications such truth should have in our everyday lives. He begins here the second major element of Ephesians, which is how to walk in a manner worthy of our calling. Though most of the second half is devoted to one's own individual walk with the Lord, this first passage takes up the area of relating to one another within the body of Christ.

Chapter 4 verse 1 gives the first command of the book: "walk in a manner worthy ..." Paul uses the term "walk" 7 times in Ephesians. Using the "concordance" below look more closely at this word's figurative uses. Pay particular attention how it is modified (e.g. walk by, with, according to, etc.) Summarize your work below.

In Ephesians:

Eph. 2:2

Eph 2:10

Eph 4:1

Eph 4:17

Eph 5:2

Eph 5:8

Eph 5:15

In Paul's Other Epistles:

Rom. 6:4

Rom 8:4

Rom 13:13

Rom 14:15

1 Cor. 3:3

1 Cor 7:17

2 Cor 4:2

2 Cor 5:7

2Cor 10:2,3

2 Cor 12:18

Ga. 5:16

Phl. 3:17,18

Col. 1:10

Col 2:6

Col 3:7

Col 4:5

1 Thes. 2:12

1 Thes 4:1

1 Thes. 4:12

2 Thes. 3:6

2 Thes 3:11

In Rest of NT:

Mk. 7:5

John 8:12

John 12:35

Acts 21:21

Heb. 13:9

1 Pe. 5:8

1 Jo. 1:6,7

1 Jo 2:6

1 Jo 2:11

2 Jo. 4

Ephesians 4:1-16

- 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,
- 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
- 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- 4:4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- 4:5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- 4:6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.
- 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- 4:8 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."
- 4:9 (Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?
- 4:10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)
- 4:11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,
- 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
- 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
- 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
- 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,
- 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Questions Ephesians 4:1-16

1. Assuming "unity of the Spirit" is the unity of Jew and Gentile Paul just described in Chapter 3, how do we began to walk in a manner worthy of that unity? (vs. 1-3) What should characterize our attitude? Our reactions?
2. What is the basis of our unity (vs. 4-6)?
3. How is our unity enriched by the diversity of the body of Christ? (vs. 7-10) Who gave the gifts? Who receives them? Who gives the grace to empower them?
4. Paul quotes Psalm 68:18 in verse 8, a psalm about God going to Egypt to lead his people out of slavery to the Pharaoh. What does that verse mean in the context of the Psalm? Why does Paul quote it here? How does it explain/clarify his point in Ephesians?
5. If the body is to grow, what is its foundation (vs. 11-12) What is the "job description"? Who does what?
6. What is the goal of our growth? (vs. 13-14) How long does it last?
7. What is the means of growth? (vs. 15-16) What characterizes it? What does it promote?
8. What are the implications of this passage for us an individuals and as a body?