

“Walking Worthy – Part 1” Ephesians 4:1-3

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE AND CHRISTIAN LIVING

1. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians changes emphasis in chapter 4.

- Ephesians chapters 1-3 primarily theology, doctrine, truth
- Ephesians chapters 4-6 emphasize practical application of that truth

→ “Therefore” is a ‘clue’ for us in the text: these two are connected.

2. Therefore” is also a ‘safeguard’ for interpreting and applying the text.

- Doctrine must lead us to practical living ...*and*... practical living must be based upon doctrine.
- Doctrine comes first; but it does not stop with doctrine.

3. We see the same development in other texts:

- Romans. Chapters 1-11 teach doctrine, theology, truth
Chapters 12-16 teach practical application of the truth (See Romans 12:9-21)
- Titus 2:1: *But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be...*
2:10: *...adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.*

→ Christianity is about truth, teaching (DOCTRINE)...*and*...Christianity is a way of life (ETHICS).

4. An important principle of studying the Bible...

- Each text has *one* interpretation (meaning)—not many. But each text can have *many* practical applications.
- Therefore, application is where it can start to get messy.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE DESCRIBED AS A WALK

1. In the letter to the Ephesians...

- 2:1-2: in which you once walked
- 2:10: ...created in Christ Jesus for good works...that we should walk in them
- 4:1; 4:17; 5:1-2; 5:8; 5:15

2. Walking in a manner worthy of the calling. v.1

- The word is used twice in v.1: *...walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*
- Calling = ‘called out ones’ = the church.
- 1 Peter 2:9: Called out of darkness into his marvelous light.

3. In 1 John 2:1-6...

- 2:6: *...whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*
- False teaching today: You can believe in Jesus and live/walk however you want to live.

4. In the New Testament...

- Matthew 3:8 and Luke 3:8: Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.
- Luke 3:8-14
- Great Commission: NOT *telling* them to obey all that I have commanded, but *teaching* them to obey...