

Conduct Your Life Worthily

Ephesians 4:1 (LEB)

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to **live in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called**

- Live like everything Paul taught in chapters 1-3 is true!
- We are called out of darkness and need to live accordingly (Eph. 5:6-8)
- "Called" is the effectual call (Rom. 8:30)

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Essential Christian Virtues

Ephesians 4:2a (LEB)

with all humility and gentleness, with patience...

- Humility is literally "humble-mindedness"
- Gentleness is not associated with weakness in the NT
- Jesus was "gentle" but expressed anger
- Patience is *macrothumia* which is something Paul was shown (1 Tim. 1:16)

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Put Up With Each Other

Ephesians 4:2b (LEB)

Putting up with one another in love

- *Anechomai* can be translated "bear with"
- Jesus "put up with" disciples (Luke 9:41)
- This does not endorse "putting up with" false teaching (2 Cor. 11:4)
- Love is *agape* and means to seek the highest good of the one so loved
- The differences between believers are God's doing so we must accept them

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Implications and Applications

- Do not break the connection between true doctrine and Christian virtues
- By being gracious to others in the church we show that we need grace
- Patience is grounded in the character of God

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Sound Doctrine and Godly Living

2 Timothy 3:5 (ESV)

having the **appearance of godliness, but denying its power**. Avoid such people.

- Piety in an external form only is possible
- "Godliness" is *eusebia* and is used 15x in NT, usually with a positive connotation
- True doctrine produces true godliness for believers (see 2 Pet. 3:10-13)

Be Gracious to Fellow Christians

Colossians 3:12, 13 (NASB)

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a **heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience**; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord **forgave** you, so also should you.

- "Forgave" means "graced"

Patience and God's Nature

Exodus 34:6 (NASB)

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, **compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth**

- God spoke on Sinai to Moses in a glorious theophany
- Five attributes of Yahweh are here revealed

God's Patience Toward Sinners

Romans 2:4 (ESV)

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and **forbearance** and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

- God allows history to go on with sinners spurning Him
- God's patience does not imply impotence to judge, but desire for human repentance