

# Chapter



4

## Part 1

(v1-16)

*I therefore, a prisoner for the  
Lord, urge you to walk in a  
manner worthy of the calling  
to which you have been  
called...(v1)*

In one verse Paul **summarizes** the goal of the Christian life.

That goal is for every believer to walk in step with the holy, eternal position that they have been given.

That goal is for every believer to live up to the incredible call of God on their life...and that is that their life be a display of the wisdom, mercy, kindness and grace of God **shown** to them at **salvation**.

*...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (v2-3)*

Paul lists some **specific** actions that indicate that someone is walking worthily of their calling.

There are many, many actions that Paul could have used to **highlight** what it means to walk worthily of our heavenly calling...

And the ones that he chooses are not random, but in fact represent the **height** of what God considers the **heart** of walking worthily.

Paul says that a life filled with humility, patience and a bearing with one another in love is the **hallmark** example of walking worthily of our high calling.

Paul echoes these traits  
later in the chapter...

*Live a life filled with love,  
following the example of Christ.  
He loved us and offered himself  
as a sacrifice for us. (5:2)*

Paul says that a life filled with love for others, and humbling being willing to **serve** and **sacrifice** on their behalf is again the pinnacle of a life lived worthily.

Paul goes on with more instruction  
on how we might go about living  
worthily of our calling.

*There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (v4-6)*

*But grace was given to each  
one of us according to the  
measure of Christ's gift.*

*Therefore it says, "When he  
ascended on high he led a host  
of captives, and he gave gifts  
to men." (v7-8)*

Paul says that one of the major ways that the body of Christ is helped in the process of walking more worthily are these **“gifts”** that he has **given**.

What are these gifts?

They are positions and abilities that God has gifted certain people with in order to help **guide** the flock of God.

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... (v11-12)*

Paul says that God has given the church certain gifted people in order to help equip the believers and help them advance in their walk.

These people are to use their  
gifts to build of the body of Christ  
and equip them for life and  
ministry.

The believers are to take **advantage** of these people and to make themselves **available** to their gifting and equipping.

Paul goes on further and explains the **aim** or the end goal to which these gifted people are to strive towards.

*...until we all attain to the unity  
of the faith and of the  
knowledge of the Son of God,  
to mature manhood, to the  
measure of the stature of the  
fullness of Christ... (v13)*

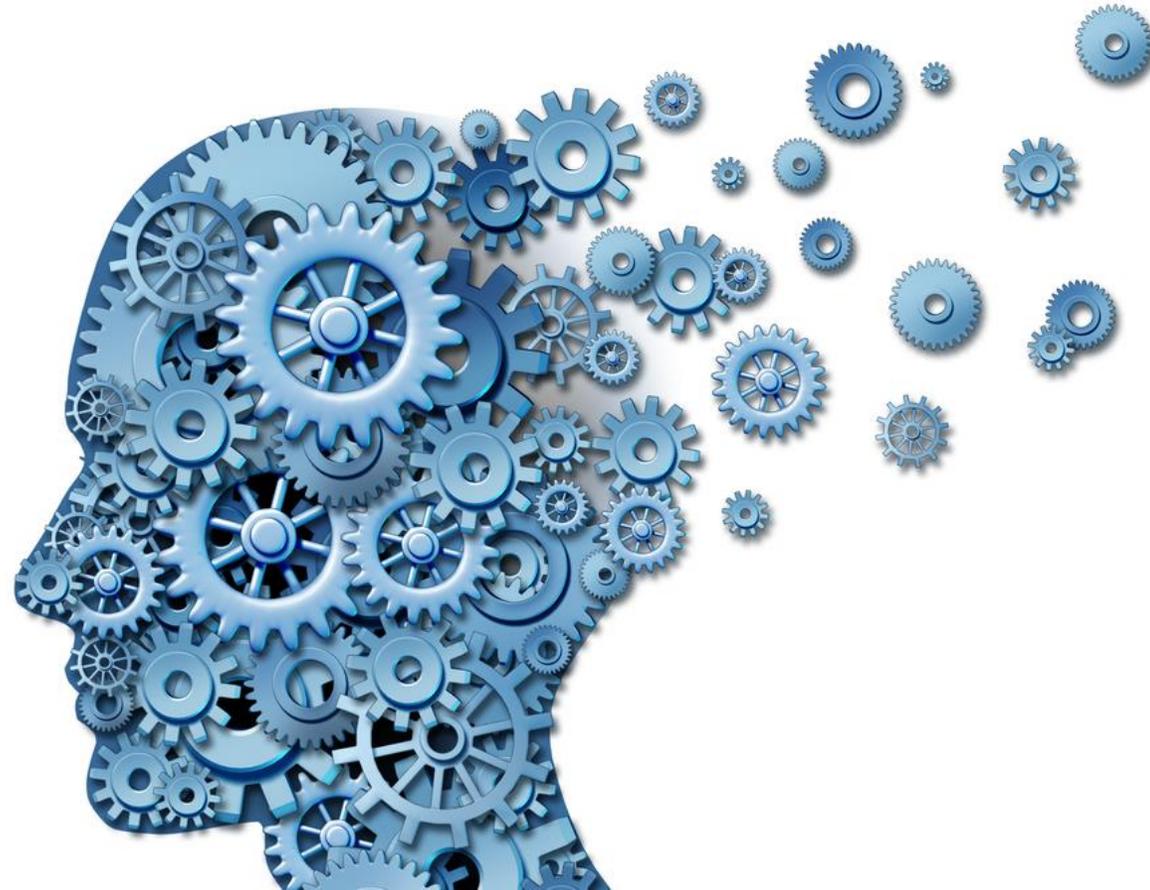
Paul lists three things that are the goal and aim of these gifted people. This is what they are to be equipping the church towards.

These three things should be  
front and center for each believer.

# 1. Unity of the faith.



# 2. Unity in the knowledge of the Son of God.



# 3. Maturing into the fullness of the character of Christ.



Let's take these one by one  
for a moment...

# 1. Unity of the faith.



**What we mean by  
*unity of the faith* is twofold.**

First we mean,  
a growing in the unity of  
the focus of our faith.

That is; a growing in *unity*  
*in our hope* in the one God,  
one Lord, one Spirit,  
one salvation...

Second we mean,  
a growing in the unity of  
the family of our faith.

That is; a growing in unity  
with our brothers and sister in  
Christ. A growing in our ability  
to get along together.

# 2. Unity in the knowledge of the Son of God.



**What we mean by  
*unity of the knowledge of the  
Son of God* is twofold.**

First we mean,  
that the church has a  
unified understanding of who  
the Son of God is.

That is; a clear,  
comprehensive and united  
knowledge & faith in the  
truths & doctrines about Christ.

Second we mean,  
that the church has a unified goal  
in the **centrality** of the teaching  
about Christ and who he is and  
what he came to do and what he  
promises us etc.

# 3. Maturing into the fullness of the character of Christ.



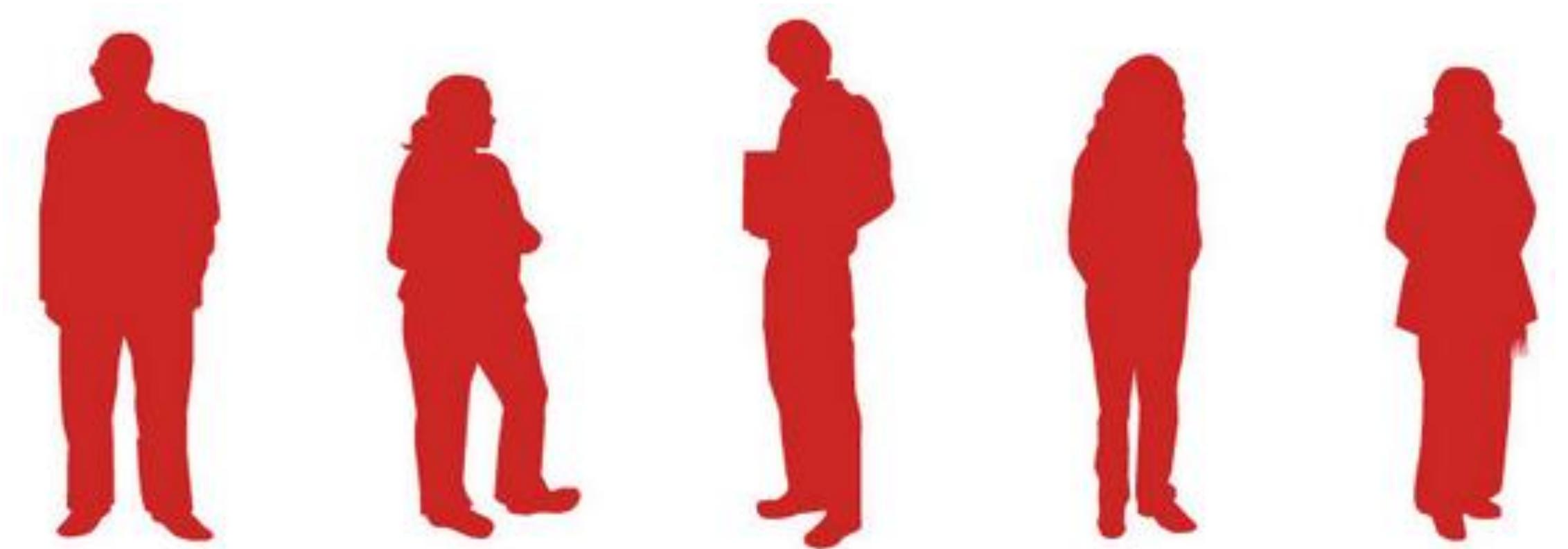
**What we mean by  
*maturing into the fullness of  
the character of Christ*  
is twofold.**

First we mean,  
that the church has a unified goal that  
*'believers maturing into the character  
of Christ'* is the **principle** aim of the  
church as well as the **primary** goal in  
the life of the believer.

Second we mean,  
that the believers are  
personally striving to grow in  
their submission to Christ...

...and that the leaders in these  
gifted positions are guiding and  
equipping people towards total  
**practical** obedience to Christ.

*It is here where we are reminded of  
our purpose as human beings...*



*We exist by God and for God.  
And our purpose is **to discover** our  
**unique role** in the **overarching plan**  
of God **to manifest** his **power**,  
his **wisdom**, his **love**, his **grace** and  
his **glory** to the world in this lifetime  
and the next.*

*The way that we accurately display the wisdom, love, and grace of God is **by growing more and more into a mature likeness of Christ himself...** in how we think & act.*

Paul continues...

*...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes... (v14)*

Paul says that the more that we grow  
in the unity of the faith, in the knowledge  
of the son of God and the more  
we aspire to maturity in Christ...  
the more we will be able to withstand  
the onslaught of the world's **system**.

And the world's system, directed by Satan, is trying to **scheme** and attack us in ways to get us to doubt our faith and **stumble** in our knowledge of Christ.

*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ... (v15)*

*...from whom the whole body,  
joined and held together by  
every joint with which it is  
equipped, when each part is  
working properly, makes the  
body grow so that it builds itself  
up in love. (v16)*

Paul says that how we counter this **attack** is to lovingly speak the truth to each other in order to grow in our understanding of the truth about Christ and to grow in our **application** of the truth.

Paul also says that as we grow more in our knowledge of Christ and our obedience to Christ, collectively, the whole body, the church, grows stronger and functions more and more the way that God desires it to.

SUMMARY



1. God's goal is for every believer to **live** a kind of life and make the kind of choices that are **inline** with the holy, eternal position that they have been given.

2. Living a life filled with **humility**,  
patience and bearing  
with others in love may be  
the **highest** examples of  
walking worthily.

3. God has given the church gifted people who should help believers in their desire to walk more worthily.

4. Believers must **avail** themselves of these people which God has gifted the church with in order to **accelerate** their growth.

5. These leaders are to **cultivate** believers in the focus of their faith as well as their **comradery** within the family of God.

6. These leaders are to **direct** believers into a unified **doctrinal** understanding of the Son of God.

7. These leaders are to guide believers into an ever growing maturation into the likeness of Christ.