

“BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE”

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INTRO: We’re called to walk worthy of our calling and bear with one another in love (Eph. 4:1-3). How do we walk worthy of our calling?

Characteristics of Walking Worthy of Our Calling:

1. **Humility** [*“all lowliness”*] – putting others above yourself.
 - A. Do you talk more than you listen (James 1:19)?
 - B. Do you try to make yourself or the other person look better?
2. **Gentleness** – treating people with respect, dignity and kindness, regardless of who they are.
 - A. How do you treat people who have different beliefs or lifestyles than you?
 - B. How would they evaluate your treatment of them?
3. **Longsuffering** – the ability to put up with a lot without losing it (*patience*).
 - A. Is there something that tends to set you off?
 - B. If so, why? What in you causes you not to be so longsuffering?
4. **Bearing with** (showing tolerance for, making allowance for each other’s faults, accepting one another) **one another in love**.
 - A. This is not condoning or denying but being merciful.
 - B. Are you as patient with the shortcomings of others as you want them to be towards you?
 - C. We’re often far more aware of the shortcomings of others than we are our own.
5. **Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**.
 - A. Notice that we’re not told to **produce** unity but to **keep** unity – a unity of the Spirit by walking in peace (Rom. 12:18).

Jesus’ Prayer for Unity (Jn. 17:21-23)

1. The world should be able to observe our unity and as a result be convinced that God sent Jesus and loves them as He loved Jesus!
2. Jesus gave us God’s glory to produce this unity!

Practical Ways to Walk This Out

1. Look for opportunities to speak words of edification to others, which imparts God’s grace (Eph. 4:29).
2. Avoid complaining (Phil. 2:14-15; 1Cor. 10:10-11; Num. 14, 16).
3. Forgive anyone who has hurt you (Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:12-13).
 - A. Let go of hurt, anger and gossip.
 - B. Be kind (nice) and tenderhearted (compassionate) to one another.
 - C. Forgive others just as God forgave you (a choice).
 - D. Forgiveness isn’t denying, minimizing, excusing or forgetting, but releasing!
4. Live a life of expressed gratitude (Eph. 5:20-21).
 - A. Nurture being an optimist rather than a pessimist – see the glass half full rather than half empty.

CONCLUSION: Let’s Create an Irresistible Culture at Jubilee!