

A man in a dark suit is walking away from the viewer on a sandy beach. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The man is carrying a black briefcase in his right hand. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Walk Worthy

Four
lessons
on the
call of
God.

BY PASTOR
STEPHEN
HILDEBRANDT

of your
Calling



Walk Worthy of Your Calling

This Book Belongs To:

Written & Edited by
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© April 2008

*Dedicated to the men of
Grace Community Church at
their twelfth annual men's retreat,
April 18th-19th, 2008.*

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·C·O·N·T·E·N·T·S·

1

Lesson 1. God's Call & Our Possession. ***Eph. 1:18 - The Inconceivable Riches of Christ.***

Pages
1-14

What is the general call of God? In what two ways is it general? What is the purpose and limitation of the general call? What is the effectual call of God? What are three elements of the effectual call of God? What eternal future is the Christian called to?

2

Lesson 2. God's Call & Our Position. ***2 Cor. 5:21 - The Imputed Righteousness of Christ.***

Pages
15-26

What is imputation and what three acts of imputation are demonstrated in the Bible? What is imputed righteousness? By what names does God call the Christian and what do these names reveal? What does God see concerning the future of those who are effectually called?

3

Lesson 3. God's Call & Our Practice. ***Eph. 4:1 - The Incorporated Righteousness of Christ.***

Pages
27-38

What reasons does God give for Christians to walk worthy of their calling? What covenantal change has taken place with respect to God's blessing? What is the difference between imputed and incorporated righteousness? In what tangible ways can the Christian walk worthy?

4

Lesson 4. God's Call & Our Profession. ***1 Peter 2:9 - The Invested Reputation of Christ.***

Pages
39-48

How can God be jealous? What does Jesus Christ have to be jealous about? Why would it be wrong for Him not to be jealous? What two but opposite ways can the Christian affect Christ's reputation. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?

Foreword

The effectual call of salvation was a call to holiness, not unholiness. God has not called us for the purpose of impurity. It isn't grace so that sin may abound ... the very nature of God's calling and justification is a calling to sanctification. He called us to Himself for the purpose of sanctifying us, making us holy, making us pure, making us sinless. You have a holy, pure, and sinless God who brings salvation through His holy, pure and sinless Son, who then applies that salvation through His holy, pure and sinless Spirit in order to produce a people who are holy, sinless and pure ... to present the church without blemish and without spot, holy before God. ⁻¹

John MacArthur, Jr.

1

Lesson 1. God's Call & Our Possession.

Eph. 1:18 - The Incalculable Riches of Christ.

Lesson 1 Outline

- A.** The General Call of God 1
B. The Effectual Call of God..... 5
C. The Christian's Call to Glory. 9

A The General Call of God.

① Three Examples.

A. General Revelation.

- i. It is the General Call of God through:

Creation

*See
foot-
note*

- ii. Two Ways it is General:

1. *Message*
 2. *Audience* } Rated - G

- iii. Biblical References.



- Psalm 19:1, 4 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork. ... Their voice has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world."
- Romans 1:20 - "Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

Note: Conscience is another example of general revelation, Rom. 2:14-15

“According to Psalm 19 the role of general revelation is to alert all men to the supreme glory of God. ... A major limitation hinders general revelation’s effect, however, in that it can be totally ignored or even misunderstood by its recipients.” - 2

John MacArthur (1939-Present)



N · O · T · E · S

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.” - 3

Agnostic Dr. Robert Jastrow (1925-2008)



B. Apologetics.**i. It is the General Call of God through:**

Reason

*See
Isaiah
1:18***ii. Two Most Convincing Classical Arguments:****1. Cosmological Argument.**

Since the universe (cosmos) could not cause itself to come into existence, there must be a cause outside the universe. The Bible says that God is the *First Cause* of all things (Gen. 1:1). “All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” (John 1:3).

2. Teleological Argument.

The word “teleology” comes from the Greek *telos* which means purpose or design. Even a semi-complex design (e.g. a shoe), requires a designer (e.g. Nike). When we see the incredible complexity of the DNA molecule, or the human brain, or even a single-celled animal, reason demands an intelligent designer. Top atheist philosopher Anthony Flew’s conversion to theism was based largely on this argument. “The heavens declare the glory of God...” (Psalm 19:1).

C. Evangelism.**i. It is the General Call of God through:**

Gospel

*See
2 Cor.
5:20***② What it Does & Doesn’t Do.****A. It Does make all men accountable.**

- Romans 1:20 - “Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

B. It Does Not save anyone by Itself.

- Matthew 13:13 - “while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”

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☼ What is apologetics?

“The preaching of the gospel represents the outward call of God. This call is heard audibly by both the elect and the nonelect. Human beings have the ability to resist and refuse the outward call. He will not respond to the outward call in faith unless or until the outward call is accompanied by the effectual inward call of the Holy Spirit.”- 4

R. C. Sproul (1939-Present)



B The Effectual Call of God.

① *Essential* to Receive the Gospel.

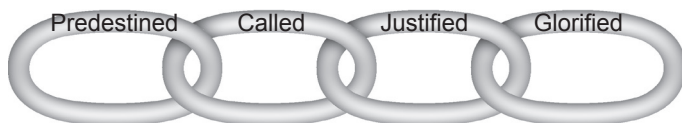
- John 6:44 - Jesus said, “No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

God Must Give Faith to Believe

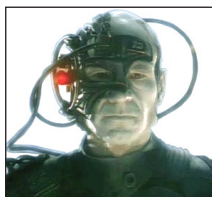
- Rom. 12:3 - God alots faith to those effectually called (cf. Rom. 1:7)
- Gal. 5:22 - Faith is a fruit of the Spirit, not a work of the flesh.
- Eph. 2:8-9 - Faith is the gift of God.
- Phil. 1:29 – Belief in Christ must be “granted”.
- Acts 13:48 - Only those appointed to eternal life believe.

② *Effective* 100% of the Time.

- John 6:37 - Jesus said, “All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.”
- Romans 8:30 - “Whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”



- What does “irresistible grace” mean?



*We are the Borg.
Resistance is futile.
You will be assimilated.*

- Spurgeon - “Men are brought to God by the effectual power of grace, but grace never violates, though it subdues, the human will.” - 5

"Before the inward effectual call is received, no person is inclined to come to [God]. Everyone who is effectually called is now disposed to God and responds in faith. We see, then, that faith itself is a gift from God, having been given in the effectual call of the Holy Spirit." - 6



R. C. Sproul
(1946-Present)

"The other kind of call is internal, specific, and effectual. That is, it not only issues the invitation, it also provides the ability or willingness to respond positively. It is God's drawing to Himself or bringing to spiritual life the one who without that call would remain spiritually dead and far from him." - 7



James Boice
(1938-2000)

"When a person hears a general presentation of the gospel, he can accept it or reject it. But when the Spirit of God moves in and transforms a life, the person responds to that efficacious call and becomes one of 'the called.'... It is an eternal call, and God promises that everybody who is called is justified and also glorified -- nothing can break down that process." - 8



John MacArthur
(1939-Present)

"The call of God is like the call of Jesus to the corpse of Lazarus: 'Lazarus, come forth!' The call contains the power to produce what it commands. It is an effectual call. That is why Paul can say in Romans 8:30 that all 'those who are called are justified.' The certainty of their justification lies in the fact that the faith by which men are justified is produced by the effectual call of God." - 9



John Piper
(1946-Present)

③ *Exclusive* to those Who Believe.

A. Personal in Nature. *From the Scriptures*

- John 10:3 - “He calls his own sheep by name”
- John 10:27 - “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me”
- Jeremiah 1:5 - “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
- John 11:43 - “And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth.’”



B. Personalizing God's Call. *From Ephesians 1*

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed **ME** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
- 4 just as He chose **ME** in Him before the foundation of the world, that **I** should be holy and blameless before Him.
- 5 [In love] He predestined **ME** to adoption as a son through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
- 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on **ME** in the Beloved.
- 7 In Him **I** have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of **MY** trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,
- 8 which He lavished upon **ME**.
- 11 also **I** have obtained an inheritance ...
- 13 [and] was sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 who is given as a pledge of **MY** inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

General or Effectual?

You Make the Call

General
Effectual

B I B L E R E F E R E N C E

- ☐ ☐ Matt. 4:18-20 - "And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.' And they immediately left the nets, and followed Him."
- ☐ ☐ Matt. 4:21-22 - "And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. And they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him."
- ☐ ☐ Matt. 9:9 - "And as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man, called Matthew, sitting in the tax office; and He said to him, 'Follow Me!' And he rose, and followed Him."
- ☐ ☐ Matt. 16:24 - "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'"
- ☐ ☐ John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."
- ☐ ☐ John 10:3 - "he calls his own sheep by name..."
- ☐ ☐ Rom. 8:30 - "and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."
- ☐ ☐ 2 Cor. 5:20 - "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."
- ☐ ☐ 1 Peter 2:9 - "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"

C The Christian's Call to Glory.

1 The Hope of Our Calling.

- Eph. 1:18 - "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints"

2 Surpassing Riches of Grace.

- Eph. 2:4-7 - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

3 Inconceivable Glory.

- Rom. 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."
- 2 Cor. 4:17 - "For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison"
- 1 Cor. 2:9 (NIV) - "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"

4 Immeasurable, Eternal Lovingkindness.

- Psalms 103:11 - "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him."
- Psalms 103:17 - "But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him..."
- John MacArthur - "God loves me just as much as He loves Jesus Christ, and therefore doesn't want to let me go. Second, He has the power to hang on to me. So with the combination of absolute power and absolute love, I have absolute security. If He loved me when I hated Him, and sent Jesus to secure my salvation when I hated him, then surely He loves me enough to keep me now that I love Him, even though I fail Him. He loves me enough to make me His son and then keep me as His son-- and has the power to do it. What love!" - 10

“Where is the man who shall estimate our divine portion? Weigh the riches of Christ in scales and His treasure in balances, and then think to count the treasures that belong to the saints. Reach the bottom of Christ’s sea of joy, and then hope to understand the bliss that God has prepared for them that love Him. Overleap the boundaries of Christ’s possessions, and then dream of a limit to the fair inheritance of the elect. “All are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.” - 11



Charles Spurgeon
(1834-1892)

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Incalculable Riches of Christ

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”

Additional Notes

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Additional Notes

[illegible]

Selah. Pause & Meditate.



~ *Individual or Small Group Bible Study* ~

- ❶ Before you became a Christian, what were your thoughts about Creation? What are your thoughts now that you are a Christian?

- ❷ Summarize the key elements and the differences between the general call and the effectual call of God.

- ❸ Do you think Christians should take time to think about Heaven and their eternal inheritance, or is it a waste of time? Why or why not? Read Rom. 8:18; 1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 4:17; Eph. 1:18.

Private Devotions

Psalm 103:2. Forget None of His Benefits.

Read all of Psalm 103. The Bible encourages us to forget none of the many benefits of being a Christian. Read the following verses, jot down a couple of key words, and then spend the rest of your devotion time in praise and prayer.

1. Psalm 5:12 - _____
2. Psalm 23:6 - _____
3. Psalm 34:7-10 - _____
4. Psalm 46:1 - _____
5. Psalm 84:11 - _____
6. Psalm 103:11-12 - _____
7. Psalm 103:17 - _____
8. Jeremiah 31:3 - _____
9. Romans 8:28 - _____
10. Romans 8:33, 38-39 - _____
11. Ephesians 1:3 - _____
12. Philippians 1:6 - _____
13. Philippians 4:19 - _____
14. Colossians 1:12 - _____
15. Jude 1:24-25 - _____

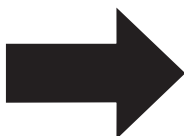
2**Lesson 2. God's Call & Our Position.***2 Cor. 5:21 - The Imputed Righteousness of Christ.***Lesson 2 Outline**

- A.** Three Acts of Imputation 15
B. What God Says About You 19
C. What God Sees About You 21

A Three Acts of Imputation.Definition.

- Impute: v. 1. To attribute, accredit, or reckon to the account of another;
2. To charge with the fault or responsibility.

1 Adam's Sin imputed to All Mankind .



- Romans 5:18 – “through one transgression [Adam’s] there resulted condemnation to all men”
- Romans 5:19 – “through one man’s [Adam’s] disobedience many were made sinners”
- 1 Corinthians 15:22 – “in Adam all die”

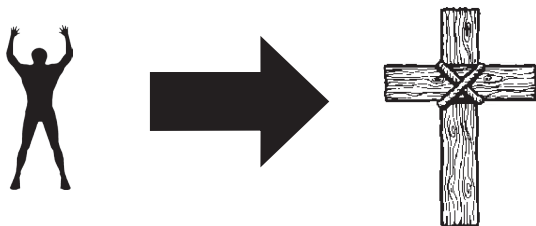
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“The Bible clearly teaches that our original parents, Adam and Eve, fell in sin. Subsequently, every human being has been born with a sinful and corrupt nature. If the Bible didn’t explicitly teach this, we would have to deduce it rationally from the bare fact of the universality of sin” - 12



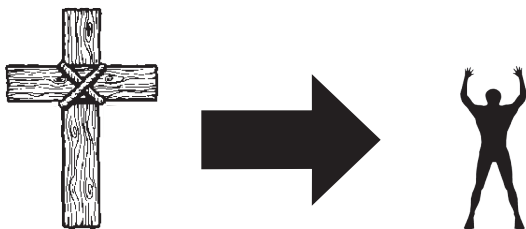
R. C. Sproul
(1939-Present)

② *Believers' Sins* imputed to *Christ* .



- Isaiah 53:11-12 – “the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities ... He Himself bore the sin of many”
- Hebrews 9:28 – Christ was “offered once to bear the sins of many”
- 1 Peter 2:24 – “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross”
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf”

③ *Christ's*
Righteousness imputed to *the Believer* .



- Rom. 5:19 – “For as through the one man’s disobedience [Adam’s] the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One [Christ’s] the many will be made righteous.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
- 1 Cor. 1:30 – “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption”

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“For Martin Luther and John Bunyan the discovery of the imputed righteousness of Christ was the greatest life-changing experience they ever had. Luther said it was like entering a paradise of peace with God. For Bunyan it was the end of years of spiritual torture and uncertainty. What would you give to know for sure that your legal acceptance and approval before God was as sure as the standing of Jesus Christ, his Son?” - 13



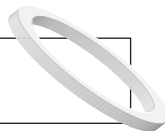
John Piper
(1946-Present)

B What God Says About You.

Two Examples:

① God Calls the Christian a:

Saint



- Saints: Greek: *hagiois*, holy ones, 59x in New Testament.
- Romans 1:7 - "... called as *saints*"
- 1 Corinthians 1:2 - "*saints* by calling"

② God Calls the Christian a:

Son



- John 1:12 - "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become *children* of God, even to those who believe in His name"
- Romans 8:16-17 - "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are *children of God*, and if children, *heirs* also, heirs of God and *fellow heirs with Christ*"
- Galatians 3:26 - "For you are all *sons* of God through faith in Christ Jesus."
- Galatians 4:7 - "Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a *son*; and if a son, then an *heir* through God."
- Eph. 1:3-5 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to *adoption as sons* through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will"
- 1 John 3:1 - "See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called *children* of God; and such we are."

Charles Haddon
Spurgeon
1834-1892



“Consider again, I pray you, what a dignity God hath conferred upon you -- even upon you in making you his son. The tall archangel before the throne is not called God’s son, he is one of the most favoured of his servants, but not his child. I tell thee, thou poor brother in Christ, there is a dignity about thee that even angels may well envy. Thou in thy poverty art as a sparkling jewel in the darkness of the mine. Thou in the midst of thy sickness and infirmity art girt about with robes of glory, which make the spirits in heaven look down upon the earth with awe. Thou movest about this world as a prince among the crowd. The blood of heaven runs in thy veins; thou art a son of God, descendant of the King of kings.” - 14

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C What God Sees About You.

1 God Sees the Past, Present & Future:

All At Once

- Isaiah 46:9-10 - "... I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'"



- A. W. Tozer - "God lives in an everlasting now, He has no past and no future." - 15



- C. H. Spurgeon - "God is an eternal, self-existent Being ... What we call past, present, and future, He wraps up in one eternal now." - 16

2 Christian, God Already Sees in You His:

Finished Plan

- Hebrews 4:3 - "His works were finished from the foundation of the world."
- Ephesians 2:4-6 - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus"
- Romans 8:30 - "and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

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Walk Worthy of Your Calling

Lesson 2

Imputed Righteousness of Christ

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

God's Call & Our Position

2 Corinthians 5:21

Additional Notes

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Additional Notes

[illegible]

Selah. Pause & Meditate.



~ *Individual or Small Group Bible Study* ~

- ① Discuss again why it is a wonderful principle that one man should represent many, e.g. as Adam represented us in the Garden.

- ② Review the three acts of imputation on pages 15-17. Which one amazes you the most? Why?

- ③ Summarize the Christian's moral standing (position) before God?

Private Devotions

1 John 3:1. King's Kids.

Read and meditate on 1 John 3:1, then write a short prayer concerning your sonship.

Adoration. Praise you Heavenly Father that ...

Confession. Forgive me merciful God for ...

Thanksgiving. Thank you gracious Lord that ...

Supplication. Help me Holy Spirit to ...

3

Lesson 3. God's Call & Our Practice.

Eph. 4:1- Incorporating the Righteousness of Christ.

Lesson 3 Outline

- A.** Therefore, Walk Worthy27
B. Make Your Practice Match Your Position 29
C. Walk Worthy of Your Calling 31

A Therefore, Walk Worthy...

1 Ephesians 1-3: *Christ's Riches.*

- Eph. 1:3 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"
- Eph. 1:7-8 - "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us."
- Eph. 2:4-7 - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us ... raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

2 Ephesians 4:1: *Christian Response.*

- Eph. 4:1 - "therefore ... walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called"

3 Covenantal Change.

Old Covenant.

- **IF** you obey Me, **THEN** I will bless you. (Lev. 26; Deut. 28)

New Covenant.

- **BECAUSE** I have already blessed you with every blessing. (Eph. 1:3)
- **THEREFORE** [in love & appreciation], walk worthy. (Eph. 4:1)

THE CHRISTIAN WALK

Walk Worthy

- Eph. 4:1 - *walk* in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called
- Eph. 5:2 - *walk* in love
- Eph. 5:8 - *walk* as children of light



Not Worldly

- Eph. 2:1-2 - “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, you formerly *walked* according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”
- Eph. 4:17-19 - “*walk* no longer just as the Gentiles also *walk*, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.”

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B Make Your Practice Match Your Position.

	Position	Practice
1	<u><i>Imputed</i></u> <i>righteousness</i>	<u><i>Incorporated</i></u> <i>righteousness</i>
2	<u><i>Justification</i></u>	<u><i>Sanctification</i></u>
3	<u><i>Point</i></u> <i>in Time</i>	<u><i>Process</i></u> <i>Over a Lifetime</i>
4	<u><i>Saints</i></u> <i>by calling</i> (1 Corinthians 1:2)	<u><i>Walk worthy</i></u> <i>of your calling</i> (Ephesians 4:1)

“We are called Christians; we must answer that name, and live like Christians. We are called to God’s kingdom and glory; that kingdom and glory therefore we must mind, and walk as becomes the heirs of them.” - 17

Matthew Henry
(1662-1714)



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Handwriting practice lines for notes.

C Walk Worthy of Your Calling.

“Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”


~ Ephesians 4:1-3 ~

1 Humility. *Meekness, respect, submission, unassuming, self-effacing*

MOSES	<p>“Now the man Moses was very <i>humble</i>, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.”</p> <p>~ Numbers 12:3 ~</p>	
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- Isaiah 66:2 - “But to this one I will look, to him who is *humble* and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”
- Micah 6:8 - “He has shown thee, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of thee but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk *humbly* with your God?”
- Philippians 2:3-5 - “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with *humility* of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus”
- James 4:6 - “But He gives a greater grace [Greek: mega grace] ... Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the *humble*.”

2 Gentleness. *Mild-tempered, tender-hearted, compassionate.*

PAUL	<p>“But we proved to be <i>gentle</i> among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.”</p> <p>~ 1 Thessalonians 2:7 ~</p>	
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- Philippians 4:5 - “Let your *gentle* spirit be known to all men.”
- Colossians 3:12 - “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, *gentleness* and patience”
- Proverbs 15:1 - “A *gentle* answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

“To “walk worthy of the Lord” means to walk in a way that the Lord deserves from us, not in a way that we deserve from the Lord. A clue is found in Colossians 1:10 which says, “Walk worthy of the Lord, to please Him.” - 18


John Piper
(1946-Present)



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③ Patience / Forbearance. *Endurance, imperturbability.*

JOB	<p>“As an example, brethren, of suffering and <i>patience</i> ... You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.”</p> <p>~ James 5:10-11 ~</p>	
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- 1 Cor. 13:4-8 - “Love is *patient*,... is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered ... bears all things ... endures all things ... Love never fails”
- Galatians 5:22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, *patience*, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control”

④ Love. *Deep devotion, affection, attachment, enjoyment.*

JOHN	<p>“Beloved, let us <i>love</i> one another, for <i>love</i> is from God; and everyone who <i>loves</i> is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”</p> <p>~ 1 John 4:7-8 ~</p>	
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- John 13:35 - “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you *love* for one another.”
- 1 John 3:18 - “Little children, let us not *love* with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”
- 1 John 4:7-8 - “Beloved, let us *love* one another, for *love* is from God; and everyone who *loves* is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

⑤ Unity. *Solidarity, mutual support, harmony, cooperation, cohesion.*

DAVID	<p>“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in <i>unity</i>! ... For there the Lord commands the blessing”</p> <p>~ Psalm 133:1-3 ~</p>	
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- John 17:22-23 - Jesus praying, “that [My people] may be perfected in *unity*, so that the world may know that You sent Me...”
- Colossians 3:14 - “Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of *unity*.”

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Walk Worthy of Your Calling

Lesson 3

Incorporating the Righteousness of Christ

“walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called”

God’s Call & Our Practice

Ephesians 4:1

Additional Notes

[illegible]

Additional Notes

[illegible]

Selah. Pause & Meditate.



~ *Individual or Small Group Bible Study* ~

- ① What is your own greatest personal motivation for wanting to walk worthy of your calling?

- ② In your own words, summarize the key elements and differences between imputed and incorporated righteousness.

- ③ In Ephesians 4:1-3, Paul lists five ingredients necessary to walk worthy of our calling: humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance and unity. Which of these do you think is most lacking in the Christian church today? Which is most challenging for you?

Private Devotions

Eph. 4:1-3. Way to Walk Worthy

Read Ephesians 4:1-3 again and review the five ingredients necessary to walk worthy of our calling. Write some thoughts down on what tangible steps can you take to improve in these areas. When you are done, take these things to the Lord in prayer.

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4

Lesson 4. God's Call & Our Profession.

1 Peter 2:9 - The Invested Reputation of Christ.

Lesson 3 Outline

- A.** Jesus is Jealous for His Glory39
B. Called to Glorify His Name.....41
C. Called to be Ambassadors43

A Jesus is Jealous For His Glory.

- Isaiah 42:8 - "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images."

① He is Jealous for Our Worship.

A. Prohibition on Idol Worship.

- Exodus 20:4-5 - "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a *jealous* God"

B. Jesus is the Only Divinely Authorized "Image" Worthy of Worship.

- Colossians 1:15 - "He is the image of the invisible God" (Greek: *ikon*)
- Hebrews 1:3 - "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature" (Greek: *character*)

② He is Jealous for His Name / Reputation.

A. Prohibition Against Misuse of His Name.

- Exodus 20:7 - "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."

B. Jesus' Name is Above Every Other Name.

- Philippians 2:9-11 - "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

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*“We should be more jealous
for the glory of God than for any interest
or reputation of our own.” - 19*

Matthew Henry
(1662-1714)



B Called to Glorify His Name.

① The Christian's Call to Glorify God.

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
- Westminster Catechism - Man's chief end is to glorify God..."

② The Effect of the Christian's Life on Christ's Reputation.

Good Deeds
<p>"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."</p> <p>Matthew 5:16</p>
<p>Defend Christ's Reputation</p>

Evil Actions
<p>"For the name of God is blasphemed among the [unbelievers] because of you"</p> <p>Romans 2:24</p>
<p>Offend Christ's Reputation</p>

③ One Other Data Point to Consider.

- Revelation 12:10 - "Satan is called the "the accuser of our brethren ... who accuses them before our God day and night"
- (Rev. 12:10; cf. Job 1:9-10, 2:4-5; Zech. 3:1).

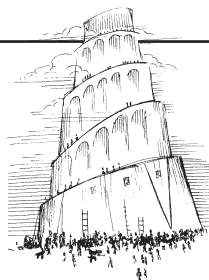
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C Called to be Ambassadors.

1 The World's Calling: Make a Name for Ourselves.

Genesis 11:4 - “They said, ‘Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us *make for ourselves a name*, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’”



2 The Christian's Calling: To Know Him & Make Him Known.

- Jeremiah 9:23-24 - “Thus says the LORD, ‘Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.”
- Matthew 28:19 - “Go therefore and *make disciples* of all the nations”
- 2 Cor. 5:20 - “Therefore, we are *ambassadors for Christ*, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”
- 1 Peter 2:9 - “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may *proclaim* the excellencies of Him who has *called* you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”
- Colossians 1:28 - “We *proclaim* Him”

“We have been called to proclaim the glory of God’s grace. The world should look at us and say, “Look at that group of people! What a gracious God they have!” God should be glorified in how we live and in what we say.” - 20

John MacArthur (1939-Present)



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☼ What is an “ambassador”?

Walk Worthy of Your Calling

Lesson 4

Invested Reputation of Christ

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”

God’s Call & Our Profession

1 Peter 2:9

Additional Notes

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Additional Notes

[illegible]

Selah. Pause & Meditate.



~ Individual or Small Group Bible Study ~

- 1 Why is it usually evil when people are jealous, and not evil but actually holy when God is jealous?
- 2 What would you say is the Christian church's reputation in America and why? What can we do to change it?

Private Devotions

2 Cor. 5:20. Mr. Ambassador!

Christian, God has called and appointed you to a very important office: Ambassador for Christ! As part of your official duties, list three people you will pray for regularly and talk to this year about Christ.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Matt. 5:16. Make Your Light Shine.

Christian, God has entrusted you with something very valuable to Him: His reputation! Jot down a couple of thoughts on how you can improve Christ's reputation among the circle of people in your life, by your words and actions. Close in prayer.

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Written by Pastor Stephen Hildebrandt

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Worthy
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Calling
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