

EPHESIANS 4 vs 1

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¹Therefore,

I the prisoner of the Lord, ask that you walk worthy / for this reason; I call you near... I invite you to progress step by step... but the word is: **axios**; it is an adverb. Paul is talking about walking: an adverb modifies the action; **not** the actor. Often, this word is confused -- plainly Dr. Gene Scott reminded us, nobody is worthy; nobody will ever be worthy -- **Revelation 5** tells us: the Lamb who was slain is worthy... **and has redeemed us to God by His blood**. Here, Paul is talking to those who say: **I'm going with Jesus**.



that you walk worthily / Paul says -- step by step; guard your step, walk appropriately with dignity,

of the call with which you are called / speaking to the church Jesus is building; **the out-called-ones**; called out into the street of life, joining those who hear the voice of the Lord, the Good Pastor,

walk worthily...

And the first step is...

² **with all humility** / start there... because without humility, we go no further -- Matthew Henry.

But Paul adds...

and meekness / keep walking! the word is: **tamed-ness**... as the Word of God tames and harnesses us... like a powerful wild horse... brought under control of the Lord -- and not anybody else...

and continue...

with longsuffering / as God suffers long for each of us; as He endures so much that is not allowed in His heaven... that would make where He lives... into more of a hell. C.S. Lewis said, not all the luggage is taken on all trips, some things can be left behind.

keep walking...

forbearing one another in love / lifting up one another in love; because from the least to the greatest... all of us are more like that awkward toddler being held up-right by a Father; taking our first steps. only in His power; holding on to Him. And it starts with humility; but it doesn't start with the other person.

And it is all done, in love serving one another... with the care of others in mind, seeking their welfare: that is the love of our Creator.

³ striving to keep the unity of the Spirit / being eager, **diligently striving**... as far as possible; notice what is to be maintained: Matthew Henry said centuries ago: unity does not lay in one set of thoughts; or in one form or mode of worship; but in one heart and one spirit... and that is the Spirit of God!

in the bond of peace / Matthew Henry adds, Many slender twigs of different lengths and different strengths... **when tied together by ONE bond... they are stronger than any**... even than the thickest and strongest was of itself.

⁴ There is one body, and one Spirit,

even as you were called in one hope of your calling / Matthew Henry also says... two hearts in one body would be horribly tragic;

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism / Paul says... there is one baptism that matters; John the Baptist said, when the Lord comes **He will baptize with fire and the Spirit!** which should have silenced long ago the tragic controversies over: sprinkling, dunking or immersing. **His people are on fire for the Lord:** enflamed by His Spirit... and no amount of water will quench it,

⁶ one God and Father of all / prophet Ezekiel declared centuries earlier, the Lord God Himself told us: **All souls are Mine!** A thousand years earlier, He also told us: **have no other gods before Me**... and it is as if God tells us, that as far as He can see... and He sees everything... there is no competition anywhere on the horizon. Those who claim another god... are foolishly playing, but not with reality!

one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

⁷ But to every one of us is given grace / in some degree;

according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

⁸ Wherefore He says, When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive / this word is: **aichmaloteuo**; we are learning about a multitude of captives; we could say: **He captivated** those who were imprisoned; like Allied troops who liberated concentration camps; the Lord Jesus does that today with His captivating Words; capturing the listening hearts in every nation, calling them to His kingdom,

He captivated, and gave gifts to men / and no, they are not cheap gifts. They are real gifts... given to all mankind – men and women alike.

the New English Bible says...

⁹ Now, the word ascended implies He also descended to the lowest level,

down to the very earth / then He ascended on high, after coming from heaven to live among us.

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¹⁰ He who descended is the same who also ascended

far above all heavens, that He might fill all things / that He might touch all His creation;
surely you know His name and His Son's name

And what were these gifts He gives?

¹¹ And He gave some / **xurao**; it is the definite article,

He gave the apostles / **not some: whatever amount; however many**, He gave **the apostolos**; sent ones; His ambassadors; those speaking His words; going in His Name. After the 12 Jesus sent 70.

True story, in one country our friend had a knock at the door early in the morning; on opening it was his brother who had walked 2 hours. Our friend said, why are you here? His brother said, In the middle of the night, someone came to me and said, **I am Way; I am Truth; I am Life**. When I asked, Who are you? He said, go see your brother, he will tell you. Today, the brother is a great preacher of the Word of God! Our Lord is still busy calling out and giving gifts to His people;

and the prophets / He gave **the prophetes**; telling forth... like a volcano erupting with God's word;

and the evangelists / He gave **the euaggelistes**; those joyfully sharing the Good News of God's mercy and redemptive love;

and the pastors-teachers / the word for pastor is: **poimen**; 18 times used in the NT; 17 times it identifies with Jesus Christ, **the Good Pastor**. Only here this word expresses a gift given to the only church Jesus Christ is building. This phrase suggests: that **poimen** and **didaskalos**... is one kind of assignment: **pastoring-teachers**; or the **teaching-pastors**; **it is one of many gifts given to be exercised; not merely an office to be occupied**.

Now days, many who occupy pulpits do neither; they cannot seem to teach; and they cannot seem to pastor. Some just want to wear weird robes and jump around and tell dumb stories... for a few coins.

He gave them...

¹² for the perfecting of the saints / to equip and enable those who God calls to reach the end, to fulfill their purpose as holy – wholly integrated ones; living people, not the dead,

to the work of the ministry / Paul's understanding of these words never made it in tact through the last 2,000 years; the old hocus pocus crew populating the male-dominated world... never got removed and this word translated: **ministry**... for the most part has become meaningless, and useless:

for the equipping of the saints to the work of the ministry,

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And what to ministers do?

1. They shout like citizens of eternity at the top of their lungs: **Glory to God in the highest** and sing the praises of the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, in such a way that common folk say: **let's go check it out!**
2. They stand silently at the cross... like women who had just joyously walked 80 miles... and now must take their stand... while Jesus does all the talking.
3. They clean tables and serve meals, and probably scrub toilets, too, like young, exemplary foreign folks who could have been very successful entrepreneurs; but instead give their last breath for Jesus Christ. Now days, unlike Paul... some people think they are above those important activities.

for the equipping of the saints to the work of the ministry,

to the building up of the whole body of Christ.

¹³ until we all arrive united by the faith,

and the knowledge of the Son of God / and that is not a bare speculative knowledge. Knowledge is the information needed in order to act appropriately. Paul wants us to build up the hands and feet of the Son of God... now days at work in the world, and to know the One who gave His life for us!

unto a perfect man / **teleios**; Jesus said, **Be perfect like your Father in heaven is perfect.** Obviously, He did not lower our expectations. Apparently, He has high hopes for His people. And notice, if Jesus said: Be perfect, it is because **we are not!** Hebrews 6 says, **let us advance to perfection.** So, keep our heavenly Father in focus... as we walk through this life. Advance toward Him; and someday, not here... someday, with Him in view... we will awaken in His likeness.

And that's what Paul has been talking about: so, keep on walking... in all humility and patience ... and longsuffering toward one another with love! And if we fall down, well, get up and keep going! Don't quit!

till we all arrive united by the faith,

and the knowledge of the Son of God,

to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ / now days we would say: **till we're grown up** -- measured by no one less than Jesus Christ: and that's Good News.

Others want to size us up; and point out our imperfections; but those imperfections don't bother Jesus. He took care of them. Hear it again: **WE are measured by Christ...** and nobody else!

¹⁴ That we no more be childish, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine / being tossed about, there is a lot of goofy teaching going on,

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by the sleight of men / kubeia; where we get **cube** – or **dice**. Paul says by deceptive gamblers playing, gambling and risking the lives of all mankind; skillful to deceive. Things don't change much.

and by cunning craftiness, where they use the: 'lie in wait' method... to deceive / they ambush, and defraud; using schemes and advertisements and trickery... Paul says, that is NOT our method. Paul was aware of them; Jesus was aware of them; we can be aware of them, too!

¹⁵**but speaking the truth in love** / love is excellent, but not at the expense of truth; and truth can be a contentious club,

that we grow up in all things in Him, who is the head, even Christ / the Messiah / that we His church may enlarge and increase in all dimensions:

¹⁶**from whom the whole Body closely-stitched together and compacted** / by the love of God...

all joints supplying, according to the energy / [everyone working and contributing, through the Spirit](#); the word is: **energia**; Paul writes to the church; not to the world; **the joy of the Lord is our strength**.

in the measure of every part, every person causes growth of the Body, building up itself in love. / the body, whose Head is Jesus Christ, and every part = every person producing something, building up in love; the Love of God! showing the same concern for others...as our Father God shows us.

[Salvation is Your Name](#) | [This is My Father's World](#)

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise:  [The Songlist](#) 

[I Can Only Imagine](#) | [I Could Sing of Your Love Forever](#)