



Walk Worthy: A Devotional for Called Men

Inspired by Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,”

Scripture teaches us to have the attitude of unworthiness as servants of Jesus Christ (Luke 17:10). And, in another sense, we are unworthy to be in His presence, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23). Through life’s tests and temptations, both senses of unworthiness collide: the unworthy servant attempting to do his duty apart from Christ. That’s me, and maybe that’s you, a man trying to “muscle” his way through life.

I feel most unworthy when I commit a sin that, in knowledge, I know better than to commit. I end up doing the very thing I hate, almost like I am unable to do what is right. (Romans 7:14-24) The conflict lies within me and reveals itself through my actions. I know this because God commands us to walk worthy of the gospel, of our calling, and of God Himself, yet I often fail to do so because I reject what God says about me; both my unworthiness apart from Him and my worth as one made in His image. (Philippians 1:27, Ephesians 4:1, and Colossians 1:10) If I truly accepted what God says about me, then I would understand that I was never created to live independently of Him, but to achieve through dependence upon Him.

So, the question is, “How does an unworthy sinner continuously live a life as one approved by God?” (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

Each of the “worthy” verses tells us:

1. *“...filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,” (Colossians 1:9)*
2. *“...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.” (Ephesians 4:2-3)*
3. *“...bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Colossians 1:10)*
4. *“...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.” (Philippians 1:27)*

I see the worthy walk expressed in everyday life like this:

1. “Walking Worthy” is informed:

It is one thing to know what the Bible says about walking worthy, and another to understand how we are called to live it out, but ultimately, a man must walk in obedience and act in faith if he is to achieve it.

“But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” (James 1:25 ESV)



2. “Walking Worthy” is done with the right attitude:

Demonstrate Christ’s likeness to others, and even more so under stress.

“We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” (Romans 15:1 ESV)

Like a bridge that remains stretched out across two sides despite the harshest conditions, a man should willingly endure adversity to preserve peace and maintain unity between brothers.

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:13-14 ESV)

3. “Walking Worthy” is constant:

The results of your hard work reflect the character of the power working within you.

“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:11 ESV)

Just as something disconnected from its power source cannot continue functioning as it was designed, a man cannot continuously live out his calling apart from remaining connected to Christ.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5 ESV)

4. “Walking Worthy” is not done alone:

We as men are to be a united front, immovable in our defense of the gospel.

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15 ESV)

And likewise, be an unstoppable force, unafraid in our proclamation of the truth.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16 ESV)

So, after reflecting on these passages, this is how I would define what it means to “walk worthy”:

“To walk worthy is to live by the knowledge of God’s will, carry yourself with Christlike character, and in unison while indivisible defend, proclaim, and teach a united gospel message, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”