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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**"THE ONENESS OF GOD”**

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

***Ephesians 4:1 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,"***

Paul begins the second half of his letter with the word, therefore. In light of the gracious riches, they have in Christ and the glorious reality of this new community called the church, there are now accompanying responsibilities. He urges them to live worthy of [their] calling. They must conduct themselves in a way that reflects their new status. The "I", in the verse above, of course, is Paul. In view of all that God’s grace has done for the readers (as seen in chapters 1–3), Paul urges them to walk worthy of their vocation; that is, they are to live in a manner befitting the divine call or invitation (vocation) which summoned them to salvation. Not a secular job for worldly success. Paul never once forgot that by divine providence, he was the captive of the Lord Jesus Christ. The high calling of these Ephesians was to become Christians and thereby become sons of God. We know that salvation is a “free gift” of grace from God to all who will accept it. Note, that is not the end of the subject. When we accept the Lord Jesus as our Savior, that is just the first step. There is a divine assignment to accomplish. The “called of God” are to walk in the salvation they have received. They should produce other believers by their walk. "To walk worthy" means living the salvation that you received, not turning back to the sinful life. True salvation brings a brand-new life to the believer. It is a life filled with good works, not because the works are required, but because good works follow the new life. Christianity is a way of life.

***Ephesians 4:2 "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;"***

This is still describing the “worthy walk” in verse one. There must be humility and gentleness a willingness to submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ among them. Such noble conduct includes humility, patience toward others, and bending over backward to maintain unity, or harmony, among God’s people. This is a short description of the way a true Christian conducts his life. They must have patience, bearing with one another in love, showing tolerance for others and seeking their well-being. A Christian should be “Christ like” and pattern his life after his leader. In fact, a Christian is a follower of and a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. All of the above-mentioned character traits go with a humble servant of the Lord. We know that the "love" spoken of here, and the charity in the following Scriptures in 1 Corinthians both stem from the word agape, which is the unselfish type of love that God has. This is not only the unselfish love that Christ has, but His true followers have, as well.

***I Corinthians 13:4 "Charity suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,"***

***I Corinthians 13:5 "Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;"***

***I Corinthians 13:7 "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."***

***Ephesians 4:3 "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."***

The unity of the Spirit, here, is the Holy Spirit. We are one with Christ in this Spirit, as He is one with the Father. "Endeavouring" means that we are going out of our way to make this unity work. We know that on the day of Pentecost, they were in one accord. There were no divisions and God visited them. Jesus is the King of Peace. The only real peace in this life is the peace that He gives you from within. That is the peace that the world does not understand. It is peace that you can have in the midst of the storm. By living this way, they will be able to keep the unity of the Spirit. Again, unity is not sameness. We Christians maintain our God-created uniqueness but share a common vision and goal. Notice Paul commands them to “keep” this unity, not to “establish” it. This is God’s program. The church didn’t create the unity. God calls us to preserve what he’s already created (2:11-22). This unity is tied to our Christian character and is based on the work of the Holy Spirit. If your point of reference isn’t the Spirit of God, you’ll be operating from a merely human point of view. But when you relate to people based on God’s point of view, the Spirit can override human differences and hold us together through the bond of peace. Peace and harmony where once there was conflict will act like a belt to hold us together.

***Ephesians 4:4 "[There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;"***

***Ephesians 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism,"***

***Ephesians 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all."***

The operative word, Paul says, is “one.” There is one body and one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father. The church is one body, united by one Spirit, called to one hope, worshiping one Lord, trusting with one faith, identified by one baptism, submitting to one God and Father. This passage elaborates on the “unity of the Spirit” in verse three. When we fail to keep the unity of the Spirit, we deny our “oneness.” The one body, spoken of here, is the body of Christ. Spirit, here, is speaking of the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus Christ is the only hope that any of us have. He said Himself, no man cometh to the Father, but by me. Our hope is in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is One Lord Jesus Christ, who is our all in all. You cannot be the servant of more than one person. Your Lord is your master. His wishes are your desire to fulfill. You cannot serve two masters.

***Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."***

Faith is in One, as well. Wherever your heart is, lies your faith. Our faith lies in Jesus Christ. This baptism, here, is speaking of the one name mentioned in all three commissions.

***Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"***

***Mark 16:15-19***

***15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.***

***16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.***

***17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;***

***18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.***

***19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.***

***Luke 24:45-48***

***45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,***

***46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:***

***47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.***

***48 And ye are witnesses of these things.***

Notice, in Matthew Jesus clearly said “baptize them in the “**NAME”** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” He didn’t say names, as if more than one (plural), but **“NAME”** (singular) implying one name, not three. In Mark He said, **“IN MY NAME.”** In Luke we read that Jesus opened the understanding of the disciples that they might understand the scriptures and then He said unto them, repentance and remission of sins should be preached **“IN HIS NAME”** among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. At Pentecost, after receiving the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, Peter stood up and preached the message revealed concerning the **“ONE NAME”** commanded for baptism and salvation.

***Acts 2:21 “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”***

***Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”***

The **"NAME"** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost in Matthew 28:19, and **"MY NAME"** in Mark 16:15-18 and **"HIS NAME"** in Luke 24:47, and **“THE NAME”** of the Lord in Acts 2:21 all mean the same Name **“JESUS!”**

***Acts 4:10-13***

***10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.***

***11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.***

***12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.***

***13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.***

We are buried with Him (Jesus) in the watery grave, to rise to new life in Him. We know that the God is the Father of Jesus and all believers in Christ. We also know the Jesus is God manifested (revealed) in the flesh. He is the Father in creation, Son in redemption and Holy Ghost in regeneration.

***John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”***

***John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”***

***1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”***

We are sons of God, and Jesus is His only begotten Son. Our sonship is by adoption.

***I Corinthians 8:6 "But to us [there is but] one God, the Father, of whom [are] all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom [are] all things, and we by him."***

Because there was none greater, God swore by Himself. He is above all the earth.

***I John 4:13 "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."***

***Romans 11:36 "For of him, and through him, and to him, [are] all things: to whom [be] glory for ever. Amen."***

God dwells within every believer, molding their lives the way He would have them. The tabernacle of God is with men.

***Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is Paul telling them they must do in verse 1?
2. What was the high calling of these Ephesians?
3. Salvation is a \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ of grace from God.
4. What does it mean to "walk worthy"?
5. What does "vocation", in verse 1, mean?
6. A Christian is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. What word does "love", in verse 2, stem from?
8. What is the unity of the Spirit in verse 3?
9. What does "endeavoring" mean?
10. Who is King of Peace?
11. What type of peace does He bring?
12. There is one \_\_\_\_\_\_, and one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even as ye are called in the hope of your calling.
13. Who is God the Father of?
14. Our sonship is by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. What tells us that we dwell in Him and He in us?
16. Where is the tabernacle of God spoken of in Revelation chapter 21 verse 3.