

We are working from the book of Ephesians where Paul gives us a framework for the Christian Life. ■ He talks to us about our spiritual relationship in Eph. 2:6 where he tells us that from **Heaven's perspective** we are ALREADY seated with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus. (HE establishes our position in the family, the kingdom)

That is where we spent our time before. Not only does Christ come to live in us through the power of the Holy Spirit, but we are now 'in Christ'.

■ In the coming chapters, Paul is going to tell us how we WALK in this WORLD, and ■ how we STAND against our Enemy. If we are not doing ALL THREE – Sitting, Walking, Standing, then we are incomplete as Christians.

The Bible at its core is about God Authored relationship. God Did for Adam before Adam was asked to do anything. God Blessed ABRAHAM before He gave Him an Assignment. We find the same pattern in Ephesians. ■ Eph 1:3 tells us we are Blessed with EVERY spiritual blessing 'in Christ.' Then Paul starts a list. Paul is good at list!

■ Chosen, Holy, Blameless, adopted in the beloved, redeemed, forgiven, lavished with grace... the list goes on. THAT IS HOW GOD SEES YOU. AND UNTIL YOU SEE YOU THAT WAY you will be incomplete. You can't walk and stand out of a deficit or void. That has to happen out of an overflow. I would encourage you to just SOAK in those first three chapters of Eph so that there comes a transformation in your thinking **that will** empower your LIVING.

Because when we come to the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ephesians, Paul tells us that even though we are seated with Christ in Heavenly realms, we still LIVE HERE on planet earth and we have to walk it out! (That's what '**Working out your salvation**' is talking about)

■ Eph 4:1 Walk worthy of your calling...

Walk in the 'worth'. WALK IN THE VALUE system of the King and His Kingdom. Walk worthy of your position in the ROYAL family!

See, you can't do this until you begin to get a grasp of Eph 2 'seated IN CHRIST'

(Neither will be able to STAND against the enemy until we get 'seated' and 'called')

■ This book (Ephesians) is written to ALL BELIEVERS so this is not a 'ministry' calling in this verse. It is a LIFE calling.

'Calling' could be translated as the 'Invitation from above' - Upward Call – CALL TO COME UP HIGHER in our thinking, which reflects in our actions.

Not so much about what we 'do' as what we 'become'. God always works to elevate our thinking, our understanding of who we are. ■ There is a constant call to COME UP – Draw Near – Fellowship. That is what changes us and makes the living possible.

■ 1 Peter 2:9 Called out of darkness in to light – call to reflect Him – reflect His light.

Call to be like Him – We are **Not** called to be **unlike** others!

Not that we are better than those guys, or that church, or whatever...

■ 2 Cor 10:12 “Those that compare themselves among themselves are not wise”

We are not judged by how every one else is doing, or by how we are doing compared to every one else. Are we becoming MORE like him? That (**HE**) is always the standard!

■ 2Pet. 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath **called** us to glory and virtue (excellence):

We are Called to greatness. Not mediocrity. Not average. Not COMMON!

■ 2Tim. 1:9 Who hath saved us, and **called** us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Holy means UNCOMMON; We are called to an uncommon life. There are several of you in here that I know and YOU ARE NOT THE COMMON manager, not the common employee, not the common tradesman. YOU ARE UNCOMMON! Why do you think that is? That is EXACTLY WHAT THIS IS SAYING! BE UNCOMMON in your profession!! Uncommon in how you handle people, money, relationships, language!

Because you are Called to a life of Purpose (or Reason) and Grace (which is the ability to fulfill your purpose). We talked about Grace last Summer. Grace is a **transfer** of God’s ability to accomplish what He task you with – from raising kids to ruling Kingdoms there is GRACE available to empower you to WALK in your CALLING! No Grace/not calling

■ 1John 4:17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: **In this world we are like Jesus.** (because as He is, so also are we in this world.) **To the world – WE ARE Jesus!**

That means several things. **One**, we are the ONLY JESUS most people will ever see! He is not down here walking around – YOU ARE! He is who we represent! That comes with responsibility!! We are CALLED TO BE HIM in this world!!! Seriously!!

**TWO**, He did it. Now He can do it again THROUGH YOU if you will let HIM. That takes a yieldedness on our part. Paul said ‘I die daily’. True Christianity is DEATH to ME, MY, and I – so that HE can live His life out through me.

**Three**, The more we are seated and settled IN HIM, and HE is invited and welcome to LIVE IN US and through us, the more we are like Him.

■ That is the WORSHIP ASPECT of our lives. We said last time there are Primarily Three Ways to ADVANCE His Kingdom: **Worship** – our time and relationship with HIM. Our **Witness** – which is our time and relationship with the World. And Our **Warfare**, which is how we engage the enemy when our Worship and our Witness are hindered in some way.

The Real Key that I have found in all of this is Sonship.

■ Isaiah 9:6 says unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.

Christ came as a Child, **but it is Sonship we are called to reflect.**

■ Eph. 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Sons govern their own domains – jobs, families, environments. We'll talk about that a little more when we talk about STANDING. IT IS WHAT YOU STAND FOR that is important. These roles fall to SONS. But most Christians do not take adult roles! Cost!

■ Sonship is the Greek word *Huios* and it means – *those that reflect the Character and Nature of the Father.*

So **TWO** primary words if we are going to 'Walk it out' are Character and Nature

■ 2Pet. 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the divine nature*, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

We have the **SEEDS** of divine nature, but we have to take care of them. Been working on my yard three years. More weeds than grass. Pulling and killing weeds. Planting, FEEDING, fertilizing, watering grass. Slowly getting a turn around. That is our lives.

Recognize what is contrary to the nature of God and work at getting HIS nature to be our NATURAL response or default setting!! **I still fall short! Selfish or whinny!**

■ SO - What is the Character and Nature of God we are supposed to reflect? If we are going to WALK like HIM in this world, what does that look like?

So JUST what is God's nature?

■ 1) Holy – completely without sin. ■ **Leviticus 19:2** "*Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.*"

Eph 1 says 'in Christ' we are Holy and Blameless. So the nature is there, but we have to live it out. Holiness is a gift, but it is a gift that has to be opened and kept on display!

Character is who you are when no one is looking. What we do repeatedly affects who we become.

■ “Sow a thought, and you reap an act;  
Sow an act, and you reap a habit;  
Sow a habit, and you reap a character;  
Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.”

So it is the little things we do that will build us. The positive habits that empower the character change in our lives. **INPUT EQUALS OUTCOME!**

■ 2) God is Righteous. ■ **Psalms 119:137** *Righteous are you, O LORD, and your laws are right.* He is JUST. He does what is right. We are often concerned with BEING right, but DOING right and being right are two different things. We do what is RIGHT in God’s eyes. Not men’s eyes, not our own eyes.

■ 3) God IS LOVE. Always. ■ **1 John 4:8** He that loveth not, knoweth not God for God IS LOVE. ■ **1Tim. 1:5** Now the end of the **commandment** is love out of a pure heart...

How do we LOVE, and do it RIGHTLY, reflecting the Holiness of God?  
All of those must be FULLY at work.

■ 4) God is Faithful. That means He is trustworthy, loyal, reliable. ■ **1Th. 5:24** **Faithful** is he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

God keeps his word. He is who he says he is. He does what he says he will do. **So should we.** Our WORTH - OUR WORDS - OUR WORK should all be a reflection of Him.

Can others put their Faith in us to fulfill our Words? Keep our promises? HOLD OUR TONGUES? Not share gossip? Be ‘righteous’ whether they are looking or not?

■ 5) God is Truth. ■ **John 14:6** I am the way, the truth, the life. All truth is found in Him. There is no truth apart from Him.

If you work in a bank or handle money, they teach you to know the counterfeit by studying the authentic. We have lots of NEW TRUTH in this world but we didn’t get it from THE TRUTH.

■ Because you can’t separate TRUTH, from Faith, From Love, from Justice and Righteousness, from Holiness. God is ALL OF THAT, ALL THE TIME.

If we are going to walk this out, then those qualities must be growing and taking over in our lives!

You can go much further here, but those are the 5 Pillars of Character in Christ He calls us to WALK OUT – DEMONSTRATE – MODEL in our daily lives.