

November 3, 2024
Ephesians 4:1-6
“Setting The Scales”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Doctrinal to practical. Theology is not left behind but is interwoven with moral exhortations. It is significant that this new section starts off with the need for Christians to live together in love and harmony. *A Skevington Wood* The first three chapters set forth the privilege and blessings of being a believer, the next three chapters set forth the obligations and responsibilities of being God's child. **Chapters 1-3** our identity in Jesus, **4-6** our practical response.

Worthy, literally means to bring up the beam of the scales. This paints a picture of balance between profession and practice. When one becomes a Christian, one receives a calling, one does not acquire this calling. It is a God thing.

Essential attitudes for the worthy walker. HUMILITY, lowliness of mind. The opposite of humility is pride. Humility promotes unity within the church. Jesus was the supreme example of humility. GENTLENESS, is always produced by humility. To be gentle is to be mild-spirited, the opposite of vindictive. PATIENCE, long tempered. The patient person endures negative circumstances and does not give in to them. Patience never gives up, instead, it endures to the end in times of adversity, see **James 5:10**.

FORBEARING, in love. This attitude of the heart preserves the unity of the church, without it there is no unity. UNITY, by means of one faith, one baptism, one God and Father; biblically based likemindedness. Biblical doctrine is essential to right living. Beloved, your biblical doctrine and attitude well balanced are essential to a life well lived!

Application:

Consider these graces that evidence your calling and character: humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance. These are excellent qualities that mark the lives of well balanced Christians. They are essential for good relations with other believers and beyond. People who's lives are defined by humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance are people who are considerate. Wow, what a lost virtue in the general public today. Beloved, make every effort to let these virtues dominate your Christian character. Conduct and calling are to be balanced. Humility or lowliness is an attitude of mind. Meekness or gentleness likewise. These foster unity. To forbear is to holdup under a load of vexation. Yet do it in love. Do all you can to preserve unity. Don't just talk the talk, also, walk the walk. It takes both to BALANCE a worthy walk.