

Preserving the Union

Ephesians 4:1-6*

After presenting doctrinal content in the first three chapters, Paul then gave in chapters 4–6 some practical applications of those doctrines. His repeated emphasis on a believer's "walk" (*peripateō*) is the hallmark of this section. The NIV translates "walk" as "live." So then, how are we to live in light of our position?

Appeal to live a life worth living (1)

Attitudes of a life worth living (2)

Activity of a life worth living (3-6)

Wealth —Walk Continuum

The word *therefore* indicates that Paul is basing his exhortations to duty on the doctrines taught in the first three chapters. (Rom. 12:1–2 are parallel verses.) The Christian life is not based on ignorance but knowledge, and the better we understand Bible doctrine, the easier it is to obey Bible duties. When people say, "Don't talk to me about doctrine—just let me live my Christian life!" they are revealing their ignorance of the way the Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer. "It makes no difference what you believe, just as long as you live right" is a similar confession of ignorance. It *does* make a difference what you believe, because what you believe determines how you behave!

Our Wealth	Our Walk
Called by grace to belong to His body (chap. 1)	Walk worthy of your calling—the unity of the Body (4:1–16)
Raised from the dead (2:1–10)	Put off the grave clothes (4:17–5:17); walk in the purity
Reconciled (2:11–22)	Walk in harmony (5:18–6:9)
Christ's victory over Satan is the mystery (chap. 3) ²	Walk in victory (6:16)

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 35.