



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

51 North Franklin Road • Indianapolis, IN 46219 • 317.897.1298

NEWSLETTER

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WORTHY WALKING



DIVISIVE WOULD BE ONE WAY TO DESCRIBE OUR SOCIETY. THE RANCOR AND CHAOS ASSOCIATED WITH RACIAL ISSUES, POLITICS, COVID-19 RESPONSES, AND EVEN FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS ARE JUST A FEW OF THOSE HOT TOPIC ISSUES THAT AREN'T JUST ON THE EVENING NEWS BUT ALSO WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION. WHAT ARE WE TO DO? HOW ARE WE TO ACT? EPHESIANS 4:1 REMINDS US, IN FACT IMPLORES US TO WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF OUR CALLING. THERE ARE FOUR ELEMENTS TO THAT WORTHY WALK LISTED IN VERSE 2.

A WORTHY WALK INVOLVES HUMILITY. THIS INCLUDES A VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION TO ONE ANOTHER OR AS ONE WRITER PUT IT "A DEEP SENSE OF ONE'S LITTLINESS." (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON). WE ALL LIKE TO THINK THAT OUR PARTICULAR IDEAS AND VIEWS ARE THE "RIGHT" ONES, BUT PHILIPPIANS 2:3 REMINDS US, "DO NOTHING FROM SELFISHNESS OR EMPTY CONCEIT, BUT WITH HUMILITY OF MIND REGARD ONE ANOTHER AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELVES." WE NEED TO DO THAT.

A WORTHY WALK ALSO INVOLVES GENTLENESS. THIS REQUIRES COURTESY AND CONSIDERATENESS. TO BE GENTLE IS TO ACCOMMODATE ANOTHER'S WEAKNESSES. (FRIBERG'S GREEK LEXICON). EVEN IF SOMEONE IS SINFULLY WRONG GALATIANS 6:1 REMINDS US TO "RESTORE SUCH A ONE IN A SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS." WITH ALL THE HOSTILITY AND EVIL ACCUSATIONS BEING THROWN ABOUT WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL THAT WE'RE NOT ADDING TO THE DISCORD. KEEP CALM AND WALK AWAY!

FURTHERMORE, A WORTHY WALK SHOULD DEMONSTRATE PATIENCE. FRIBERG CALLS THIS "EMOTIONAL QUIETNESS IN THE FACE OF UNFAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES." MANY OF US DON'T LIKE MASK MANDATES AND THOSE THAT MAKE THEM, BUT WE NEED TO BE PATIENT UNTIL THEY ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED. PAUL SAYS, "WE URGE YOU, BRETHREN . . . BE PATIENT WITH EVERYONE. SEE THAT NO ONE REPAYS ANOTHER WITH EVIL FOR EVIL, BUT ALWAYS SEEK AFTER THAT WHICH IS GOOD FOR ONE ANOTHER AND FOR ALL PEOPLE. (1 THESS. 5:14-15). MIGHT WE ENDURE TO THE END.

FINALLY, TOLERANCE IS REQUIRED FOR A WORTHY WALK. WE NEED TO SHOW SELF-RESTRAINT AND BEAR WITH OTHERS. TO PARAPHRASE FRIBERG, "JUST PUT UP WITH ONE ANOTHER." IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE AGREE ON EVERYTHING, BUT WE DO NEED TO DISAGREE AGREEABLY. THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL WAS CALLED TO DISCUSS WHAT WAS REQUIRED OF NEW GENTILE BELIEVERS. THE WISE PASTOR JAMES CONCLUDED THAT THE JEWISH CHRISTIANS SHOULD "LAY UPON YOU [GENTILES] NO GREATER BURDEN THAN THESE ESSENTIALS" (ACTS 15:14), WHICH HE GOES ON TO DELINEATE. THEIR WORTHY WALK GREW THE CHURCH.

MIGHT GOD HELP US BE WORTHY AND NOT WORLDLY WHEN IT COMES TO OUR DIFFERENCES.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE