

DIVINE DESIGN

Ephesians 4:1-6

Today we'll consider God's "Divine Design" for the Christian life.

I. OUR CALLING: A Worthy Walk (1)

A. THE APPEAL: "I implore"

1. It means to plead, admonish or exhort
2. The idea is that of a call to one's side with urgent instructions

B. THE EXPECTATION: A worthy walk

- A walk implies consistency (step by step) and being worthy implies being exemplary or commendable

C. THE POSITION: Your calling

1. This is your vocation ... the thing God has called you to do
2. This is your obligation as God's child
3. The appeal is to be true to your calling

II. OUR CONDUCT: A Gracious Attitude (2-3)

A. THE Demeanor (2)

1. Humility
 - The ability to see the ability of others (Phil. 2:3)
2. Gentleness (or meekness)
 - A courteous consideration of others
3. Patience
 - A steadfast endurance
4. Forbearing Love
 - "Lovingly putting up with all that is disagreeable in people" (Warren Wiersbe)

B. THE DESIRE (3)

1. Eager to preserve peace
2. Preserving what the Spirit has provided
3. Tying everything with the cords of peace

III. OUR CONFESSION: A Unified Doctrine (4-6)

A. ONE SPIRIT (4)

1. Indwelt by the Spirit - Romans 8:9
2. United by the Spirit into one body - cf. 2:18-19 and 3:6
3. One hope is the Spirit's making - cf. 1:13-14, 18, Rom. 8:15-16

B. ONE LORD (5)

1. One Lord who is sovereign controller and to whom we submit
2. One Faith in that Christ is the object of our faith and the revealer of God's truth (or body of truth)
3. One baptism by which we publically confess Christ and identify with Him

C. ONE GOD (6)

1. Our Father who oversees and guides us (cf. Rom. 8:15 and Gal. 4:4-6)
2. Over all: Superior and sovereign over all things
3. Through all: Apparent in all of His creation (cf. Rom. 1:20)
4. In all: God's omnipresence whereby He can be everywhere at once

D. ONE TRIUNITY

- There is doctrinal significance and importance in recognizing and believing in the triunity of God in three persons.

CONCLUSION:

God's divine design is that we would:

1. Walk worthy of our calling (1)
2. Be graciously peaceful (2-3)
3. And, united in doctrine (4-6)

God won't change His mind or modify His plans ...

- *The question is: Will we modify our ways and surrender our wills to His?*
- Whose design will we follow?
- With whose plans will we conform?