

## “Becoming What You Are”

I don't know about you, but occasionally someone will say something that stops me dead in my tracks. This happened a few weeks ago, when a friend called me to ask how I was doing. I love those kind of phone calls. As we concluded a wonderful conversation, he made an amazing statement. He said, “I am going to pray that people will be drawn to Christ, as they are watching you.” I was speechless for a moment and stammered something like, “Oh, well thank you!”

Suppose immediately after you were saved, the Lord stamped on your forehead these words, “Watch me. I'm a child of God.” How would that affect your current lifestyle? We certainly don't have a mark like that, but we do bear the name of Christ in this world. After my friend made that comment, I had this thought, “The Christian life is simply becoming what Christ has already made you.” Immediately the Lord brought to my mind Ephesian 4:1 when Paul said, *“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called . . .”*

When we first put our trust in Christ, we became part of His family. *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, . . . to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons. So you are no longer a slave, but a son, . . . then an heir through God.” (Gal 4:4-6)*

I love what Paul said in Ephesians 1:3 says, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.”* Wow! As God's children, we have many rights, honors and privileges as His son or daughter, so He expects us to behave like His children. When I was a kid growing up, I was the king of misbehaving. I know there were times when my mother didn't even want to own me in front of others. I still hear this question banging around in my head, “Maam, is this your kid?” Nope! Think on this. Just like a child honors his father by obeying him, we honor God by how we act. Again, Paul said it well, “Walk worthy of the calling to which we have been called.”

I like what D. Martyn Lloyd Jones says in his commentary on Ephesians. The word “worthy” has two basic ideas. The first is that of “equal weight”. Imagine a scale with objects of equal weight on opposite sides, so that it does not tilt. The scale balances perfectly, so it is “worthy”. If it tilts, it is “not worthy”. I think what Dr. Jones is saying in context and practical application, our doctrine must balance with the practice of our walk. If so, we walk worthy of our calling. Simply, there ought to be perfect harmony between who you are and how you live. This is convicting, to say the least. People are actually watching how I live and in my present circumstances, how I respond to hardship. Will my child-like behavior be a sweet aroma and draw people to Christ and ultimately salvation in Him? Conversely, will my behavior as a child of God be such that some in the world may say, “Oh, that kid (Christian) is a brat. I am never going to church or even consider pursuing God.” I think about such things as we face our trials.



Our desire to be worthy children is the direct result of understanding and appreciating all He has done for us. What a great way to begin 2019. Yes? *“God, in this coming year, may we become who we really are in Christ and nothing less. May we live our lives in 2019 in such a way that is worthy of the gospel of Christ. And finally, may we see many come to Christ because of what they see in us, as your beautiful fragrance.”*

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