

- 01) Is it possible for you to live (walk) a life that is worthy of the gospel?
- 02) How can a bunch of sinners living in a sin-cursed world live together in unity?
- 03) What does Paul call himself in verse 1?
- 04) What similar title does Paul give himself in other passages?
- 05) How does society generally class prisoners and slaves?
- 06) How do you see yourself in Christ?
- 07) If you are indeed no more than a slave to Christ, what should characterize your attitude towards others in the body?
- 08) Count how many times Paul says “one” in this passage.
- 09) What point is he making?
- 10) How much do we have in common in Christ?
- 11) How should this truth impact your thinking, in your life?
- 12) If we share so much in Christ, and we do, then how are divisions in the body possible?
- 13) What do you think is the primary cause for divisions in the body of Christ?
- 14) How can you foster biblical unity at Blair Ridge Baptist Church?
- 15) What steps do you plan to take?

Monday (v. 1-7) – “Walk worthy” how? Paul says that God has given “each one of us” grace. The grace he is talking about in this passage (as he later explains) are “gifts” from God, or spiritual gifts. Verses 1-6 tell us in great detail of the unity, the “oneness” we have in Christ; when we live as one in the body God is greatly glorified, it is worthy of the gospel. Now Paul goes on to give us some practical applications for walking worthy. It’s interesting that the first thing Paul talks about after his explanation of the unity we all share in Christ is the diversity of gifts; there is unity in Christ but diversity of gifts. As we study this passage, think about your own life; what gifts has God given you, and how should you use them in the church?

Tuesday (v. 7-10) – Verse 8 quotes Psalm 68:18. The next verse says, “Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits.” God has given many gifts to men; notice that Paul says these came “according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” Again salvation is in view here, because Christ died and God raised Him from the dead. Now because of that, he has given gifts to men. Notice how many times between verses 7-16 he says “ascended,” “descended,” “above,” “lower-parts” and “grow up.” What point (or distinction) do you think he is trying to make?

Wednesday (v. 11) – What does this passage say God has given us? Notice the “*to be*” in verse 11 (NKJV) is italicized. This means it is not included in the original; it is only meant to help you understand or to make the text more clear. The KJV says, “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” Notice that God did not give the gift of apostleship to some but actually gave the gift of some apostles to the church. That is significant in understanding this passage. What are some of the implications of this truth?

Thursday (v. 11-14) – Why has God given us apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (v. 12)? What then is your part? What is the desired outcome of this cooperative ministry (v. 13)? Sounds like job security to me. I think the point of verse 13 is more of a job description than a watermark. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers were given to the church so that we can grow. They were also given for another reason (v. 14); what is that purpose?

Friday (v. 15) – “Speaking the truth in love...” Several things are evident by this verse: 1) The truth needs to be spoken. Sometimes we can get the idea that the most loving thing is silence. That could not be further from the truth. 2) The truth without love is no good either. The truth can be spoken harshly or to hurt others; God requires us to use the truth, but also to seek the best for others and a spirit of meekness. Paul again tells us that this should cause growth; how is this growth characterized in verse 15?

Saturday (v. 15, 16) – If we are going to be effective corporately (as a church body), what is going to have to be occurring on a regular basis within our fellowship? What will every part have to do? What will this accomplish? It’s pretty clear that you have a responsibility as part of the body of Christ; the question becomes, are you pulling your own weight? If not, why not? What does this text indicate your refusal to do your “share” will cause in the body?