

THE IDENTITY OF THE OVERCOMING CHURCH: A WALK WORTHY OF THE CALLING

Houses of Light Church • July 6th, 2025 • Anthony Recio (based on notes by Pastor Netz Gomez)

Ephesians 3:20–21

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

I. Part I: Paul's Doxology — A Praise Explosion

A. Mic Drop Moment

- Paul's been building up three chapters full of glorious truths about who we are in Christ, and here he erupts in praise. This doxology is like the grand finale of a fireworks show—it's loud, it's beautiful, and it's all aimed at glorifying God.

B. "To Him who is able..."

- Paul's reminding us that nothing can stop God. His power is unstoppable, His plans unshakable. When God decides to move, there's no one who can stand in the way.

C. "...to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."

- Let's be real—we're sometimes scared to ask. We don't want to dream too big. But Paul's saying, "Dream bigger!" God goes *beyond* what we could ever imagine. Even our best thoughts can't outdo His generosity or His love.
- Remember what Paul said earlier? *That Christ's love surpasses knowledge* (Eph. 3:19). You can't even wrap your head around it, but it's yours.

D. "According to His power at work within us"

- This isn't some distant, out-there power—it's *in* us. It's what strengthens us to love like Christ, to go deeper with Him, and to be filled with all of God's fullness. We're not just observers of His power; we're vessels of it.

E. "To Him be glory in the church"

- Here's the key: God gets glory *first* in the church. His power and wisdom are revealed right here, in us. We're the display case of His glory, not just for the world but for the spiritual realms too!

- **Ephesians 3:10** — “...that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

F. The Church is the Stage

- The church is where God puts His glory and wisdom on full display. It's His divine theater. And the star? Jesus.

G. “And in Christ Jesus”

- All this glory in the church flows from one Source: Christ. We don't bring the glory—He does. He's the root system we're anchored in. Every bit of fullness we experience is because of Him.

H. Wrap-Up of Chapters 1–3

- Everything up to this point leads to this moment: God's love, God's fullness, and our identity in Christ should provoke one massive response—*glory to God!*

Let's be people whose whole lives scream praise. Let our prayers, our thoughts, our worship, and even our daily choices give Him glory.

II. Walk Worthy of the Calling

Ephesians 4:1

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...”

A. The Shift: From Theology to Practice

- Up until now, Paul's only given *one* command. But now? The next chapters are packed with them. That doesn't mean chapters 1–3 were just theory—they're the foundation. Everything Paul is about to tell us *flows from* those truths.

B. Don't Just Do—Be Rooted

- Paul's not just giving you a to-do list. He's saying: **You need solid roots.** If all we do is parent, lead, or live based on “what we should do,” we might burn out. But when our doing flows from our *being*—who we are in Christ—it brings life.

C. “Therefore...”

- This is Paul's way of saying: “In light of *everything* we've just talked about—who God is, what He's done, who you are in Him—I'm urging you: **Live like it matters.** Live worthy of this incredible calling.”

D. “Walk” — A Daily Journey

- Paul uses the word *walk* eight times in Ephesians. It’s one of his favorite ways to describe the Christian life. It’s not a sprint; it’s a step-by-step, day-by-day journey. Walking worthy means letting every step reflect the One who called us.

E. It’s Not Just Rules—It’s Calling

- Sometimes you won’t find a Bible verse that tells you exactly what to do in a situation. But here’s the question to ask:

“Does this align with my calling?”

We’re not meant to blend in with the world or walk in tune with the enemy.

- **Ephesians 2:2** — “...which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air...”

F. Walk According to God’s Plan

- You were created in Christ *for good works*—this is your design.
- **Ephesians 2:10** — “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

G. From Good to Excellent

- We’re not just choosing between good and bad anymore—we’re aiming for what’s *excellent*.

God’s not calling us to be *just* moral people, but to be transformed people who reflect Jesus in everything.

- **Ephesians 4:17, 5:8, 5:15-16** — Paul’s challenge is clear: walk wisely, walk in the light, redeem the time.

H. Teaching Others to Walk

- If we don’t pass this on to others—our kids, our teams, our churches—we’ll raise up and disciple shallow Christians. It’s not about knowing rules, it’s about knowing **how to live out** the gospel in every area of life.

I. Paul’s Chains Are a Testimony

- Paul says, “I, a prisoner in the Lord, urge you...” In other words:
“Even in chains, it’s worth it. Even suffering is worth it if it means you walk worthy of the calling.”

Life with Jesus won’t always be easy, but it will always be worth it.

J. From Death to Life

- We were dead. Jesus called us, and suddenly—life! Just like Lazarus walked out of that tomb, so did we when Jesus called our name.
- **Romans 8:28–30** — God not only calls us, He justifies us and glorifies us. The calling is glorious, and it came when we were still dead in sin. That's grace!

K. The Call Brings Life

- God's calling isn't just an invitation; it's a resurrection. He calls the dead to life and gives us the power to live a life worthy of Him.

Reflection Questions

1. Why does Paul say Jesus will be glorified in the church forever?
2. Can you think of a decision in your life where the Bible doesn't give a specific rule, but your *calling* guided you?
3. Are the options you're considering aligned with your calling? Why or why not?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. If you wish to be baptized, we invite you to attend the preparation class on Monday, July 7th (tomorrow), at 7:00 p.m. in the overflow. Baptisms will be held during our services next week. Register online at housesoflight.church
2. Beach Day, July 12th, 11am-3pm. Come join us as we gather as an English service community to just hang out, have fun, eat some good food and get to know each other more! We will meet at Zuma Beach Lifeguard Tower #11. Don't be shy! See you there! (bring your own food, drinks, canopies, towels, etc)
3. Holy58 Ministry is hosting the "Burning Hearts Summer Intensive". It will be a 4-day experience for youth ages 13-18, where we will explore God's Word deeply, participate in new activities, and grow in faith through hands-on learning. July 14th-16th, 8:30am-2:00 pm, concluding with a Family Service on July 17th, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. To register, please scan the QR code or visit our website: housesoflight.church
4. We are so excited to announce our annual conference: **Passion for Jesus!** September 4th-7th. Tickets are available with an Early Bird discount until August 1st. Register at pasionporjesus.la