

Ephesians

.... God's Best and

Heaven too!

A wonderful study in the book for Ephesians

A second study for discipling others

**You will find this study a delight to your heart, an
encouragement in your walk with the Lord,
and an aid to your growth in Christ.**

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Revival In The Home Ministries

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Discipleship Study -- Ephesians
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Directions and Suggestions

In this study, "***Discipleship Course, # 2***" we are desirous that you will enter into a wonderful study of the Book of Ephesians. This will bring great blessing, joy, strengthening, and maturing to your life.

We will be weaving together two things: ***a study outline of the book itself*** as we cover it section by section, and ***questions for you to fill in*** as you go through the study. Read the text that applies, many times, as you do the questions.

It is very important that you **read**, and **read**, and **reread** the book of Ephesians. In fact, you will get out of this exactly what you put into it. If you will read the book of Ephesians carefully, every week, and work on the study regularly, you will find benefit beyond your fondest expectation. ***No one can do for you what you must do for yourself. Put as much into this study as anything you ever did in your life and the book will live for you.***

Bible Study Schedule

Lesson 1	The Wonder of It All	Ephesians 1:1-14
Lesson 2	Paul's Big Little Prayer	Ephesians 1:15-23
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Introduction

“Hetty” Green left an estate valued at over \$100 million. She also has gone down in history as “*America’s Greatest Miser.*” She ate cold oatmeal because it cost too much to heat it. Her son had to suffer a leg amputation, because she delayed so long in looking for a free clinic that his case became incurable. She was wealthy, yet she chose to live like a pauper.

She was eccentric, certainly, and maybe even a bit crazy -- but nobody could prove it. She is an example of many Christian believers today. They have limitless wealth at their disposal, and yet they live spiritually like paupers.

Paul wrote to the saints about their *wealth in Christ Jesus!* One of Paul’s primary purposes of writing this epistle was to acquaint the saved of their spiritual wealth in the Savior’s finished work on the Cross.

Brief Outlines of the Book

Of all Paul’s epistles, it is in Ephesians that we find the highest spiritual truths concerning the Christian life. The letter abounds with spiritual riches and yet at the same time it is intensely practical. The first half of the letter reveals our life in Christ to be one of union with him in the highest heavens. The second half shows us in very practical terms how such a heavenly life is to be lived by us down here on the earth. We will not study the letter in great detail. We shall, however, touch on many principles that apply to our lives.

Chapters one through three deal with our ***wealth***,
Chapters four through chapter six, verse 9 deals with our ***walk***,
Chapter six, verse 10 through verse 24, deals with our ***warfare***.

Another way of outlining the book is based on: ***Key Words in Ephesians:***

1. Our Position in Christ -- ***Sit*** -- (2:6)
2. Our Life in the World -- ***Walk*** -- (4:1)
3. Our Attitude to our Enemy -- ***Stand*** -- (6:11)

In the first number of chapters we will see that we are to ***sit, or enter into the secret of wealth that is ours as a saint of God.*** As we sit at a table to partake of food, we are to ***sit*** at God’s banquet table of permanent spiritual provision. God has made us to ***sit with Christ*** in the heavenly places, and every Christian must begin his spiritual life from that place of rest. (1:3, 2:6)

In the second main part of the book (and a number of lessons we will study) we will look at the ***walk of the Christian, our expression of life in the world as a child of God.*** We will be challenged to display our Christian walk as a conduct that is in keeping with our high calling in Christ Jesus.

In the last part of the book we find the key to our attitude towards the enemy contained in the words, ***stand, and having done all to stand, to stand therefore.*** (6:10-13) This is an expression of our triumph in our position in Christ and his victory over Satan for us.

The Wonder Of It All

Ephesians 1:1-14 • Lesson 1 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory verse: "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." (1:4)

HOW TO STUDY!

PRAY it in! (Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you.)

WRITE it down! (That is how this kind of study will help you so much.)

Introduction in Ephesians 1:1-3 (First, read this at least four times.)

1. To whom was the epistle written: "**to the _____ which are at _____ and to the _____ in Christ Jesus.**" (1:1) Written by whom? _____
 2. What two things did Paul want them to know? (1:2) _____ and _____ These came from whom? _____
 3. God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ has "**blessed _____ with all _____ blessings IN _____ places in Christ.**" (1:3) **What do you think this means to you?** _____
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I. Selected by the Father: Eph. 1:1-6 (First, read these verses at least four times and then fill in the blanks.)

A. Selected for a Special Position: Eph. 1:1-3

1. We are called _____, (1:1) meaning to be *set apart from sin and this evil world system.*
2. He has "**_____ us up together and made us sit _____ in heavenly places in Christ**" (2:6).
3. This is true because "**There is therefore now _____**" (Rom. 8:1a).
4. "**All _____ blessings**" belong to the child of God. (1:3)

B. Selected for a Special Purpose: Eph. 1:4-6

1. We were "**chosen IN Him _____ the _____ of the world.**" (To choose means election, predestined by His grace. This took place in the eternal plans of God, directed by His will according to the good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.)
What does this mean to you, personally? (See 1:5, 9.) _____
2. As His chosen ones, we were set apart from this evil world system and

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- sins's condemnation. (II Cor. 5:21; II Cor. 5:17)
3. We were chosen that we might be "**holy and _____ blame before Him _____.**" (1:4)
 4. To be holy means in Christ our sins are _____ away (See I Cor. 6:11.), and we are made blameless as a position because "**we are made the _____ of God in Him.**" (See II Cor. 5:21.)
 5. Because of His love, he has predestinated us "**unto the _____ of children, by _____ Christ, to _____.**" (1:5) This He did **according to the _____.** (1:5)

He ordained ahead of time to adopt us. This is an act of **son-placing** into His family, **saved** by the blood, **redeemed** and **placed** in His family by an act of His grace alone.

6. Then He made us "**accepted IN the _____.**" (1:6) He did this freely as He bestowed on us a position we do not deserve. He will continue to work in us that we might be *to the praise _____.* (1:6)
7. What does it mean to you to be **accepted** in Christ, to be **chosen**, and to be **placed** in His family like an **adopted child**? _____

8. Should this have an effect on your daily life? _____ If so, how?

II. **Saved by the Son: Eph. 1:7-12** (First, read these verses four times.)

A. **Through His blood we have _____.** (1:7)

1. To be redeemed means we are **set free** from the _____ of the law, (Gal. 3:13), as He _____ *us from the present evil world,* (Gal. 1:4), and becomes our new Master, *for He died, rose and revived that He might be _____.* (Rom. 14:9)
2. We have the "**forgiveness of _____.**" (1:7b) To forgive means total pardon, removal of the condemnation of all our sins, sins blotted out, to be remembered no more. (Write out Isaiah 43:25 below, and see Isa. 44:22.)

B. **Through the riches of His grace -- (1:7c -10)**

1. Verse eight is connected to the last phrase of verse seven, for by His grace, He "**hath _____ toward us in all _____ and _____.**" Where will we find wisdom to live for Him, and be prudent or be made aware to make right decisions with discernment and knowledge? It is only in Christ. (See I Cor. 1:30.)
2. In His wisdom He has made known unto us "**the _____ of His _____, according to His good pleasure which He hath _____ in Himself.**" (1:9)
3. **What** does this mean to you personally? _____

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4. For by His grace He will (in the dispensation of the fulness of times) *“gather _____ in ONE all _____ in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth: _____.”* (1:10)
We are valuable to Him; He will lose none of His own. (See John 6:37-40.)

C. Through His purpose -- (1:11-12)

1. We have *“obtained an _____ in HIM, because we were **“predestinated according to the _____ of Him who worketh all _____ after the _____ of His own will.”***
2. According to 1:12, His final purpose is *“that we should be _____”*
3. God the Father and Christ Jesus the Son will work out their eternal plan perfectly. **It will not fail!**
4. How can you **BE** to the praise of His glory in every day life? _____
5. What does the phrase *according to good pleasure that He purposed in Himself mean to you personally?* _____
6. Did you see how God will work out **His will** in this section of verses seven through twelve? What does that mean to you and your personal life? _____

III. Sealed by the Holy Spirit: Eph. 1:13-14 (Read four times.)

A. Because *“ye _____, after that ye _____ the Word of truth, the gospel of your _____: in whom also after ye _____”* --

1. *“ye were _____ with that Holy Spirit of _____.”* (1:13)
2. At the time of our salvation we received the Holy Spirit for He took up residence in us. (See I Cor. 6:19-20.)
3. The Holy Spirit **seals** us which is a **sign of ownership** and **security**.
4. What do you find about His sealing work in the following verses:
 - a. Eph. 4:30 _____
 - b. II Cor. 1:22 _____
5. This sealing is *“the _____ (or down payment) of our **inheritance unto the _____ of the purchased possession.”*** (1:14)

B. Since YOU have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, consider:

1. What does this *sealing* bring to your life? _____
2. What does this sealing guarantee? _____

Conclusion:

Write in your own words the truths you gleaned from this study as to the:

1. Work of the Heavenly Father.
2. Work of the Christ Jesus, the Savior.
3. And the work of the Holy Spirit.

Paul's Big Little Prayer

Ephesians 1:15-23 • Lesson 2 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verse: "And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power." (1:19)

Paul is a tremendous example of a prayer life. (Read his prayers as found in Philippians 1:9-11, Ephesians 3:14-21 and Colossians 1:9-12.)

The early church was made up of people who prayed earnestly and they became aware that the "**effectual**, _____ **prayer of a** _____ **man availeth much.**" (Read James 5:16.)

Can you make this truth yours? _____ How? _____

Do you pray daily? _____ Do you pray fervently, with strong desire? _____
What is God's promise? _____

I. The Reason for Paul's Prayer: 1:15-16 (Read at least four times.)

A. Paul was moved because "**of their** _____ **in the Lord Jesus, and** _____ **unto all the saints.**" (1:15)

1. Paul gave thanks for their faith. (See Rom. 1:8; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 10:17.)
2. We are to **walk** by faith, **trust** God by faith, and have **expectation** of answered prayer by faith. What does the Word of God say about faith in Heb. 11:6? _____
3. Why is **trusting** so important? _____

B. Paul ceased not to give thanks for the Ephesians, making _____ of _____ in our _____. (1:15-16)

1. Consider the **great need of love, for we are** -- (Find the phrase or word that goes with the word love in the following references.)
 - a. we are _____ in love, (1:4), (chosen by God in his love)
 - b. we are a product of His _____, (2:4),
 - c. we are to be _____ and _____ in love (3:17),
 - d. we are to know the _____ of Christ, (3:19),
 - e. we are commanded to _____ in love, (4:2), (meaning to be patient)
 - f. we are to _____ the truth in love, (4:15),
 - g. and, we are to _____ in love, (5:2).
2. With all of this in mind, Paul _____ for them. (1:16)
3. What do you need to **change** in order to have a life that shares much love? _____
4. What does the Lord want you to **do** to make the above list real in your personal life? _____

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5. Will the truths above cause you to change things in your life? If so, how?

II. *The Requests in Paul's Prayer: 1:17-23* (Read verses four times.)

Paul was burdened about their knowledge of God. He wanted them to have the spirit of wisdom, with their spiritual eyes of understanding being enlightened. He desired that God would reveal to them understanding of all their spiritual blessings and position in Christ. He prayed that it might be revealed to their hearts.

There are three distinct things Paul wanted them to know. They are found in points B-C-D below!

A. *"That their _____ of understanding being enlightened."* (1:18)

1. God wants us to _____.
(Psa. 119:18)
 2. He desires we will _____, (Matt. 13:9) and not be dull of hearing.
 3. God wants us to _____ and see that the Lord is gracious. (Psa. 34:8)
 4. That we might _____ upon His Word and truths. (Psa. 1:2-3)
 5. What do you think the above verses are saying to you personally? _____
-

B. Paul wanted them to know the *"hope of His _____."* (1:18)

1. What do you find concerning this **calling** in the following verses?
 - a. Gal. 1:15 _____
 - b. II Tim. 1:9 _____
 - c. What is the result of your faith as found in I Peter 2:9? _____
 - d. By God's divine power He *"has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath _____ us to glory and virtue:"* (II Peter 1:3)
 - e. How will this truth (d, above) change your life? _____
2. It is the **hope** of His calling, what do you find about hope in --
 - a. I Jh 3:2-3 _____
 - b. Rom. 8:24-25 _____

C. Paul wanted them to know "the riches of the _____ of His inheritance in the _____." (1:18c)

1. The saved are God's inheri_____, for we are the trophies of His grace. (vs. 18) **So what kind of person should we be as His trophy?**

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2. We will be the chief exhibit of His mighty grace for all eternity.

3. Earth will _____ away, material things will be gone in eternity, but the saints will be there with Him for ever and ever. (Read II Pet. 3:10-14.)

4. According to II Peter 3:11 what kind of persons should we be since this earth will pass away?

5. Again in II Peter 3:14 list those things we ought to be diligent about.

6. How will you apply this to your life?

D. Paul wanted them to know “the exceeding _____ of His

to usward, who _____.” (1:19-23)

1. There is the Greek word, “dunamis,” power like in **dynamo**, or dynamite.

2. There is the Greek word, “energeia,” working like an **energy**, and also the

Greek word, “krais” is used here, meaning **mighty** power. (These words

are all involved in God’s power made available for His own children.)

3. We need God’s mighty, available power.

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- a. Because in the _____ we are weak. (Matt. 26:41)
b. Because our enemy, _____ would rob us of power. (Eph. 6:11-12)
c. Because we can be _____ in the Lord, and His power. (Eph. 6:10)

4. This exceeding great power is available to “_____ who **believe, (and) is according to the _____ of His mighty power**” (1:19).

a. This is the power that “**He wrought in _____, when He raised _____ Him from the dead, and set him at his own _____ hand in _____ heavenly places**” (1:20).

b. He is our fullness. (See 1:23) **Everything we need is in Christ!**
1) He is our fullness, as the one who is “**far above all**

-----,
and _____, and _____, and dominion.” (1:21)

2) As the One who can meet our every need, He is above “**every name that is _____**”. (1:21)

3) All things have been put under His feet (**He has all power**) and God

the Father gave Him to be “**the _____ over all _____ to the _____ church.**” (1:22) (This includes you and I.)

c. Since He has all power and it is for us today, how can you apply this to your daily life?

d. In what should these truths change your life?

Interesting Questions concerning the Book of Ephesians:

1. How many times do you find the word saints or saint in Ephesians?

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2. How many times do you find the statement, "in Christ Jesus" or its equivalent?

_____ How many times is the word "IN" used in Ephesians? _____

3. What are some words Paul uses to describe God's mighty power?

4. How many times is the word grace found in the book of Ephesians?

5. What does the word redemption mean?

6. To whom was Paul writing this book?

7. What does it mean to you that all things are under Christ's feet?

New Life in Christ

Ephesians 2:1-10 • Lesson 3 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verse: *“For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” (2:8)*

I. From WHAT We Are Saved: 2:1-3 (Read the text many times)

Sin is like a **fire** for it burns and destroys; it is like **rust** for it corrodes; it is like **drugs** for it stupefies, it is like **poison** for it kills. Sin earns wages, it pays wages, it insists on paying and sin pays wages in kind. (Gal. 6:7-8). Sin pays in installments, it pays in full, and is self-executive, for it pays its own debts.

Even after we are saved, sin has its power, it is in you, it will strive to reign. It will remain as an outlaw, hiding away in the heart for we will always have the sin nature. Sin is like a **plotter**, planning your overthrow; it is an enemy, warring against your life; it is as a **tyrant**, oppressing the new nature of the saved; it **blights**, **hurts** lives, **breaks** homes, **clouds** the reason of people, **slays** the body and **damns** the soul.

A. We deserved condemnation as those who are “dead in sins.” (2:1)

1. To be “**dead in** _____” means to be dead spiritually toward _____.
2. We were at home in sin, living and walking in the practice of sin.
3. We were “**all under** _____,” (Rom. 3:9) “**As it is written, there is** _____ **righteous, no not** _____.” (See Rom. 3:10; then read 3:11-18,20)
4. Our condition was, we were “**dead in** _____ **and in** _____.” (2:1)
 - a. What do you think the word “trespass” means? _____
 - b. Sin is an *outward fruit of an inward condition!* We naturally sin! _____
 - c. What does God say about the heart in Jer. 17:9? _____
 - d. What can a dead person do for himself? _____
 - e. God has proven that all are “**under** _____”-- *under its power, control, dominion, and judgment.* (Rom. 3:9)
 - f. God says also we are “**without** _____.” *We are ungodly!* (Rom 5:6)
 - g. What does God say about the natural man in I Corinthians 2:14? _____
 - h. In our sin we missed the mark (Rom. 3:23) of God’s _____.

B. We walked “according to the _____ of this world.” (2:2a)

1. We were, in our sinful state before salvation, conformed to the customs, values and priorities of this world. What does that mean to you? _____
-

Unsaved people have a “*herd mentality*” for they follow the fashions of the world, heed the advice of the world, following the wisdom of the world, and are concerned about the acceptance of the lost people of the world.

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2. What does *walk* mean in 2:2? _____

C. We walked “according to the _____ of the power of the air, the spirit that now _____ in the children of _____.” (2:2)

1. What does God teach us in I John 5:19? _____

2. What is God’s warning to us in Eph. 4:27? _____

3. The unsaved are largely under satanic control and are not even aware of it. Who is the “*god of this world*”? _____

4. If someone is in Satan’s kingdom, they are his _____. (Rom. 6:16)

C. We had our manner of life, in times past, “in the _____ of the flesh and of the _____.” (2:3a)

1. We had a corrupt nature, a depraved mind, and an unsundered will.

2. Our world is a cesspool of corruption as people live to fulfill the desires of their sin nature. This was our state before we were saved.

3. We “**worked things out to _____ the _____ of the flesh and the _____.**” (2:3)

4. What does it mean that people are sensual, or live to fulfill the appetites of the senses? _____

E. We were “by nature the _____ of _____.” (2:3c)

1. To what degree do people allow their personal anger to control them? _____

2. What do you think this teaches about our sin nature? _____

3. How do the above truths (2:1-3) apply to you? _____

4. Should we allow our sin nature to continue to control us? _____

Christ died to save us from this horrible condition as seen in Ephesians 2:1-3. He paid for our wicked past, for our devilish conduct by His own blood as a ransom for us. Eternal punishment (death) was passed on to us, but HE paid for that judgment of death. (See Romans 5:12,19; 6:23.)

II. By WHAT We Are Saved! 2:4-9 (Always read the text many times.)

We were in the misery of sin, in its destructive force, polluted by sin, robbed by it, and wallowing in our acts of sin. **But God** came to our rescue! **We are saved by:**

A. God, “who is rich in _____.” (2:4a)

1. What is mercy and how is it exhibited? _____

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2. God's mercy was at whose expense? _____

B. "For His _____ love wherewith He loved Us!" (2:4, 5a)

1. What do we know about God's love in Rom. 5:8? _____

2. What does I John 4:9 teach us? _____

3. God loved us when we deserved His wrath; we were lost, alienated, dead in sin, corrupt, and totally depraved. **How wonderful that love!** (2:5a)

4. How will this truth bring change to your life? _____

C. Saved because of His grace (2:5b-7)

1. By His grace, "**when we were _____ in sins, (He) hath us together with Christ.**" (**Quicken** means to make us alive spiritually.)

2. How would you explain **quicken** from the story of Lazarus and his being raised from dead as told in John 11? _____

3. How would you describe *grace*? _____

4. Spiritually He "**raised us up together, and _____ us _____ together in heavenly _____ in Christ Jesus.**" (2:6) This means that we are *IN Christ*, in whom every need is supplied **right now**. (See Romans 8:15-17.)

5. His **desire** for those "seated" in Christ Jesus **is: "in the ages to come He might shew the _____ riches of His _____ in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."** (2:7)

D. Saved by faith alone! (2:8-9)

1. What does putting *faith in Christ as Savior* mean? (See if you can finish this words.) rely _____, rec_____, acc_____, dep_____ upon, tr_____.

2. What does Hebrews 11:6 teach us? _____

3. Grace is whose part? _____

4. Salvation is "*not of _____*" ? (2:8) Why? _____

5. Why is salvation a *gift*? _____

6. Would man boast if he could work his way to heaven? If so, why? (2:9)

7. Finish this acrostic:

FORSAKING

A_____

I_____

TRU_____

HI_____

III. For **WHAT** We Are Saved! 2:10

A. We are saved to be His "**work** _____." (**His work in us**)

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1. What does it mean to be *created in Christ Jesus*? _____

2. In what different ways should we be an exhibit of His workmanship?

3. What does Philippians 2:13 mean to you? _____

4. What does II Corinthians 5:17 mean to you? _____

B. We are His workmanship. . . unto good works . . . *through us!*

1. What does the Bible teach us about good works in the following verses?
Acts 9:36 _____
Col. 1:10 _____
II Thess. 2:17 _____
Titus 2:14 _____
Titus 3:8, 14 _____
2. What does it mean that we are *ordained unto good works*? _____
_____ what does it mean that you
are to walk in them? _____

Conclusions:

Are you wearing grave clothes as Lazarus did after being raised from the dead? Are you victorious in Christ or still bound in the cords of sins? Are you doing His will or our will? Is your life truly different? Do you love to serve Him?

Reconciled IN Christ

Ephesians 2:11-22 • Lesson 4 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verse: *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God."*

I. The Old Alienation: 2:1-13 (Read, reread the text many times)

Most peace missions will fail; but God's peace mission will never fail! Mankind has made covenants without end and breaks every one of them! God's eternal covenant will last and has lasted since the saved have been made *one in the eternal God, saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sealed and secured by the work of the Holy Spirit.*

It is this peace mission that Paul writes about in this portion. **God's mission is to make one all who are saved, both Jew and Gentile.**

Three words could summarize this great work: ***separation, reconciliation, and unification.***

A. The condition of the Gentiles before salvation. (2:11-12)

Eight things are true of the lost Gentiles prior to salvation:

1. We were Gentiles in the _____ vs 11
2. "***who were _____ uncircumcision***" -- which was a name of ***contempt*** and ***derision*** by the Jews. vs 11
3. "***That at that time ye were _____ Christ***" we had no claims on the Messiah at all as Gentiles. vs 12
4. "***being _____ from the commonwealth of Israel,***" and so without the right of citizenship among God's people. vs 12
5. "***_____ from the covenants of promise,***" we, as Gentiles, are outside the special covenants God had made with the Jews. vs 12
6. "***having no _____,***" that is, no Messianic hope and no hope for the future.
7. We were "***without _____ in the world***" for we were ungodly. (Rom 5:6)
8. For we were "***far _____***" , with no proximity unto God. vs 13
9. What do these facts mean to you? _____

B. Those who were distant are made "_____ by the blood of Christ."
vs 13

1. His _____ brought us to the fold and to the family of God.
2. His shed blood purchased our _____. (I Peter 1:18-19)
3. His shed blood made possible _____ of sin. (Eph. 1:7)
4. His shed blood brings us power to _____. (Rev. 12:11)
5. We are made "***nigh by the blood of Christ.***" vs. 13 What does that mean? _____

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6. Share what the blood of Christ shed for sin means to you? _____

7. How have these truths brought change to your live? _____

II. The New Arrangement! 2:14-19 (The divided are made one!)

There is a list of things that took place so that God could remove the wall between the Israelites and the Gentiles. As God removed this wall, all the saved whether Jew or Gentile could **become one in Christ** --placed in the family of God which is the bride and body of Christ.

A. Consider this list of things God did! (2:14-15)

1. We were made " _____ " by being placed *IN Christ*. vs 13
2. "**For _____ is our _____,**" The Greek word from which the word **peace** comes means to **join**. Man is joined together with God and man is joined together with man through this peace in salvation, in Christ. (vs 14)
3. Prejudice is overcome in Christ for sin separates, for He "**hath broken _____ the middle wall of _____ between us.**" vs 14
4. There were many things between Jew and Gentile, including: no intermarriage, dietary laws, rite of circumcision, dress codes, religious laws, etc. God "**abolished ... the enmity, even the _____ of commandments _____ in ordinances.**" (See vs 15. Thus Old Testament Jewish laws were put away by the finished work of Christ. Col. 2:13-15.)
5. How do you think this applies to you personally? _____

B. Consider what God was bringing about! (2:15-18)

1. God was making something new, "**for to make in Himself of twain (two) one _____, so making peace.**" vs 15 (He was thus forming the church, all the saved into one body, His bride, the church.)
2. His purpose was to "**reconcile both unto God in one _____ by the _____ having slain the _____ thereby.**" vs 16
3. God's desire to bring _____ to all who were afar off, and for those who were nigh. vs 17
4. **Glory! "For through Him we both have _____ by one Spirit unto the Father."** vs 18 What does it mean to you to have access to the Father? _____

5. How will these truths bring change in your life? _____

Discipleship Study -- Ephesians

III. *The New Results . . . One Building! (2:19-22) The denied, who are saved Gentiles, are made accepted for unification takes place.*

A. We are no longer “_____ and foreigners,” vs 19

1. What is significant that we (saved Gentiles) are now “_____ *citizens with the* _____ *and of the household of God?*” vs 19
2. Do all have equal rights, privileges and position now? _____
3. What does it mean that we are part of the household of God? _____

B. The saved are “*built upon the* _____ *of the apostles and the* _____,” vs 20

1. Christ Himself is the “_____ *corner stone.*” vs 20
2. What do you find in I Cor. 3:11? _____
_____What does that mean? _____
3. Since salvation brings *reconciliation*, do you seek to live at peace with others, and to bring about reconciliation when needed? _____ How?

C. The saved (Jews and Gentiles) are like a “_____ *fitly framed* _____ . . . *growing unto an* _____ *temple in the Lord.*” vs 21

1. Are you growing into a HOLY temple in the Lord? _____ If so how?

2. How does this truth apply to you? _____

D. We are being “*builded together for an* _____ *of God....*” vs 22 **You do have the Holy Spirit!**

1. Does He have control of your life? _____
2. Do you apply I Corinthians 6:19,20 to your daily life! _____ How?

3. What does reconciliation mean to you as it applies to salvation? _____

4. What does reconciliation mean to you in your relationship to others?

5. How should we manifest *oneness in Christ* in the local church? _____

6. Since, in salvation, you are a part of God’s household, how should you live from day to day? _____

Conclusions:

It is very important that you read and think through the following:

In this study we have noted the theme of *separation from God and the wonderful reconciliation that is brought by grace*. At this point read II Corinthians 5:18-20. ***This reconciliation is first personal.*** It is as if, when Jesus was on the cross, He took man by one hand, and the Father by the other hand and bridged the mighty chasm that had separated them. Being reconciled, we have all the blessing and joys that God provides. (Note Ephesians 2:13.) It was the blood that satisfied the just demands of God's law and made this reconciliation possible. The faith that appropriates salvation (Ephesians 2:4-8) must be focused on that blood. (Romans 3:25).

The key word in Ephesians 2:14-16 is ***"enmity."*** We were actually at war with God, rebels against Him and His plan. And how was peace obtained? Verse 14 gives us the answer: *"For he is our peace." Jesus Christ made peace.* He abolished in his flesh the enmity. He satisfied the justice and mercy of God. At the crucifixion, when Jesus gave up His life, the veil of the temple was torn from the top to the bottom, symbolizing the fact that a way was now made possible for man to approach the most Holy God. The veil -- the entrance -- now becomes His body, broken for us. (Read Hebrews 10:19-22.)

Through all of this there is ***no longer enmity between the Jew and Gentile,*** or man and God, to those who have experienced the peace that comes through faith in that blood. The enmity was contained in the *"law of commandments,"* but Christ satisfied that law and fulfilled it by His death. ***Because of this finished work of Christ on the cross, God has given us a new nature, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and all that we need for godliness and living.*** (Read II Peter 1:3-4.) We are not under the Old Testament law but are under a high standard through grace. And the saved are united in the Church to labor for His glory and honor.

The Mystery Unfolds

Ephesians 3:1-13 • Lesson 5 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verse: *“That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:” OR “In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.” (3:6 and/or 3:12)*

Here is a continuation of the thoughts of chapter two. There we saw the Jews and Gentiles in times past were in enmity with one another. God abolished the enmity and brought peace through the blood of the cross. ***Now He is building something new, the Church, His Bride, and Body.*** It is framed together as it is made up of Jew and Gentiles. **The old distinctions have been replaced with oneness in Christ.**

God is pleased to reveal His grace unto Paul (vs 2) and explain the mystery. In the Bible the term ***mystery describes a divine truth which had previously not been understood***, but now has been revealed by God in His time and plan. The word *mystery* is used frequently in Ephesians (1:9; 3:3, 4, 9; 5:32; 6:19). Many mysteries are revealed in the Word of God. We share them at the close of this study. *The mystery here is: The Gentile believers are added to the Jewish believers into one body.*

In this passage before us we have the mystery of the ***church*** as God brought about the reconciliation of the Jew and Gentile. The frequent use of the term *mystery* in the book of Ephesians takes place because this book unfolds the truth about the church as no other book of the Bible.

I. The MINISTER to the Gentiles -- Paul: (3:1-2; see 4:1)

A. A Prisoner Suffering for God, vs. 1a, “prisoner of _____ Christ for you...”

1. Paul considered himself a prisoner for the _____. (See Acts 26:13-18)
2. Paul was willing to “_____ ***all things for the _____ sake.***” (See II Timothy 2:10.)
3. Paul also called himself “***an _____ in bonds.***” (6:20)

B. A Privileged Servant of God, 3: 2, for he shared about the “dispensation of the _____ of _____ which is given.” vs 2

1. This mystery included the fact that in this dispensation, Jews and Gentiles would be joint-_____ of all that we have in Christ. (3:6a)
2. All of this takes place because of the _____ of God. (3:2)

C. A Praying Steward of God, (3:14) “bow my knees.” Of all the apostles, _____ was indeed a praying man of God.

D. A Properly Equipped Servant of God, 3:7, “made a _____, according to the _____ of the grace of God...by the effectual working of His _____.”

1. All that we have comes by God’s gift of _____ and _____. (vs 7)

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2. Our part is to **claim** these things by _____. (See Heb. 11:6)
3. Paul was an apostle to the _____. (3:8) (See Rom. 11:13; I Tim. 2:7)

II. The MYSTERY of the Church -- God's Doings: (3:3-6)

A. The Church was Foreknown, but Not Understood: vs. 3-4

1. The mystery of the church was made _____ to Paul. vs. 3
2. It was now known by _____ from God. vs. 3,
The Church was not seen in the Old Testament, neither did the Word of God there prophesy about its existence. The full truth about the church (doctrines, organization, etc.) was not fully given in the gospels either. It is a new work of God, the truth of which was especially given by revelation to Paul to be shared with us in this Epistle. Paul was uniquely a channel of this truth. (3:2-3).

B. The Church was Divinely Foreshadowed. (3:5)

Paul states the fact that the church made up of saved Jews and Gentiles, was revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the _____ Spirit. (3:5) (See John 14:26.)

C. The Church was Divinely Communicated. (3:3)

God wants us to be aware of the great importance of the church which is made up of all that are saved. ***The Bible puts emphasis upon a local church, in a local place, doing God's will, for God's glory, in God's way.***

1. What does the local church mean to you? _____

2. Since Christ died for the church (5:25) should we sacrifice for the work of the local church? _____ If so, why? _____
_____ In what better way could you labor in the ministry of Riverview Baptist Church? _____

D. The Church Has Distinct Features: (3:6)

1. Jews and Gentiles are _____. (3:6a)
2. Jews and Gentiles are "**of the _____ body**" (3:6)
3. They are together "**partakers of His _____ in Christ by the _____.**" (3:6) (In the church there is neither Jew nor Gentile.)
About one body, read: Eph. 4:4; II Cor. 12:12-14
about inheritance read: Eph. 1:18 Heb. 9:15; Eph. 1:14
about being sealed, read: Eph. 1:13-14.

III. The MISSION of the Church -- Now: (3:7-12)

A. The Servant Engaged, vs. 7

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1. Paul was made a "**minister, according to the _____ of the _____ of God.**"
2. Paul was to receive and write this revelation about the Church.
3. This was given unto him "**by the effectual working of his (God's) _____.**" This **grace** and **power** is available for us today for our bold witness.

B. The Subject Given, vss. 8a - 10

1. Paul **preached**, among the Gentiles, as the "**least of all _____.**" vs 8
2. He declared the "**_____ riches of Christ;**" vs. 8
3. How can we have a part in sharing these *unsearchable riches in Christ*?

4. This again was done only by this _____ given (of God). vs 8
5. God wants all the saved to know the "**fellowship of the _____, which from the beginning of the _____ hath been hid in God.**" vs. 9
6. God desires people to know of the importance of a church! How can you have a part in this? _____
7. God, who created all things, planned for the church from the beginning of the world. vs 9 **The local church is extremely important to God!**
Is it to you? _____ Why? _____
8. Verse 10 speaks of the church knowing the "**manifold _____ of God.**"

C. The Strength Given, vss. 11 - 13

1. It is fulfilled by the "**eternal _____ which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" vs. 11 The Church is God's eternal purpose for today.
2. "**In _____ we have _____ and _____ with confidence by the faith of him.**" vs. 12 (We have a message to give as Paul did. We have access to His power through us, as Christ works His boldness in us.)
3. God's strength is ours in the midst of persecution and difficulty. We may have many _____, but need not faint because of them. vs 13

Conclusions:

A mystery if not something eerie or unknowable, but rather a truth that was hidden by God in times past and is now revealed to those who are in His family. **A mystery is a sacred secret that is unknown to unbelievers, but understood and treasured by the people of God.**

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When God saved Paul, He deposited with him the precious treasures of Gospel truth. (I Tim. 1:11). Paul in turn committed these truths to others, exhorting them to commit the truths to faithful men who would guard them and share them. (II Tim. 2:2). God's church is not to be shackled by culture, class, or any other physical distinction. ***How glorious the mystery of the church.***

Paul began his ministry in a local church in the northern city of Antioch that was composed of both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 11:19-26). When the council was held at Jerusalem to determine the status of believing Gentiles, Paul courageously defended the grace of God and the unity of the church. (See Acts 15, Gal. 2:1-10.) Paul was called the *apostle to the Gentiles*. (See Rom. 11:13; 15:15-16; I Tim. 2:7; Eph. 3:8)

To Paul it was indeed very important to share God's plan for the church. It was Paul's focus to share God's secret and mystery, and to fulfill God's will. This brought much persecution to Paul from the unsaved religious Jews who constantly stirred up trouble for Paul. They hated him for he was bringing together both Jew and Gentile into the church. Paul called himself a ***prisoner as well as a minister*** for he sacrificed as a ***bond-slave*** and spent much time in prison. (3:1, 3:7)

Other Mysteries in Scripture:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Reception of the Word, mystery of the Kingdom | Matt. 13:11-13 |
| 2. Rejection of Israel, Gentiles grafted into the church | Rom. 11:23-26 |
| 3. At the return of Christ, we shall be changed | I Cor. 15:51-52 |
| 4. Relation of Christ and the Church | Eph. 5:30-32 |
| 5. Revelation of Christ, mystery of godliness | I Tim. 3:16 |
| 6. Rebellion of the Antichrist, mystery of iniquity | II Thess. 2:7 |
| 7. Religion through the ages, mystery of the seven stars, the churches in His hand | Rev. 1:20 |
| 8. Reactions to Babylon, the great, the mother of harlots, mystery of the woman | Rev. 17:5, 7 |

Praying For Others

Ephesians 3:14-21 • Lesson 6 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verse: "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." (Eph. 3:20)

Consider:

1. Do you feel great limitations, experience defeat, and feel powerless?
 2. Do you feel greatly discouraged and of little strength?
 3. Have you thought about what the early church suffered? They did not have the completed printed Bible as we have. They did not have all the books, tapes, videos, and a multitude of things to help them in their Christian walk. Paul was greatly burdened for their needs.
 4. How does Paul's prayer relate to the previous study concerning the Church and the enmity abolished between the Jews and Gentiles? _____
-

I. Paul's Concern For The Believers! 3:13-19 (read, reread text)

This was Paul's second prayer for the Ephesians and, of course, it applies to us today as well. In Chapter 1:15-23, he prayed for their **enlightenment**; but in this prayer the emphasis is put upon **enablement**. Paul desired that they would understand their **wealth** in Christ, embrace the truth of it, and live a victorious life because of it. He wanted them to know they were **able** to live the Christian life!

A. His prayer was selfless! vs. 13

1. He was not concerned about himself. He was burdened that "**ye _____ not at my tribulations for you,**" You would think that Paul would be the one who might **faint** since he was in prison. How do you think the believers would respond if they were to **faint** at Paul's tribulations? (3:13)

 2. In what way was Paul's tribulations working for good? (Read Phil. 1:12-14 for an answer.) _____ (vs. 13)
 3. Paul was concerned they could (and would) endure the persecutions and hardships they were experiencing. What does God want to do through our testings? (See James 1:1-3) _____
-

B. His prayer was genuine! vs. 14-15

1. Paul "**bowed his _____ unto the Father...**" This gives us an understanding of his sincerity, burden, heart-cry, and compassion he had for the early church. (Compare with Gal. 4:19.)
 2. A father has a very special kind of love. God is a real Father, the pattern Father. What does Matt 7:11 teach us? _____
-

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3. What is God called in II Cor. 1:3? _____

C. He prayed for their spiritual strength! (vs. 16)

Carefully consider the things Paul prayed for! What should it mean to you?

1. What does Paul say about *God's riches* as found in Christ through grace?

"That he would _____ you, according to the riches of his grace."

vs. 16

What does he say about this grace in the following portions in Ephesians?

a. 1:7 _____

b. 1:18 _____

c. 2:4 _____

d. 2:7 _____

e. 3:8 _____

Daily, by God's grace they were to have spiritual strengthening. And YOU?

2. The presence of the **Holy Spirit** becomes a reality when we are saved.

We are "**to be _____ with _____ by His _____ in the inner man.**" (vs. 16b) The power of the Holy Spirit makes us **able to live** the Christian life. Consider the following:

a. Did Christ depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit? (See Luke 4:1,14.) _____ What did Christ pray for as found in John 14:16? _____

Why? _____

b. Who was sent in Christ's name? (Read John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7.) _____

Why? _____

D. He prayed for the Ephesians' spiritual depth. vs. 17

Paul uses three pictures to convey this idea of spiritual depth.

1. **"That Christ may _____ in your hearts by _____:"** To **dwell** means "to settle down, to be at home at, to feel at home." *We are saved by faith, by trusting in Him, and that only.*

2. **"that ye, being _____..."** Our spiritual **roots** are to be deep in the soil of the Word of God, which brings stability, and nourishment. (Read Psalm 1:1-5.) Do you want to prosper, to be fruitful? _____

3. **"and _____ in love."** **Grounded** speaks of the foundation upon which we are to build. (See Colossians 2:6-7.) What are you doing to be **grounded** upon Christ? _____

E. He prayed they would comprehend (understand) the love of God.

vss. 18-19

1. He desired they would grasp or lay hold of the greatness of God's love for them. God's love is precious and wonderful. **"We are to know the _____ of Christ that passeth _____."** (vs. 19)

2. Paul wanted them (and it is ours as well) to **comprehend** the dimensions of this love. (vs. 18) (Read verses 17,18,19, for they are tied together!)

a. That they might comprehend the _____ of it -- **boundless!**
God's love is universal in scope and sees no limitations!

b. They might comprehend (know) the _____ of it -- **endless!**
God's love began in eternity past, and knows no end! (Jeremiah 31:3)

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- c. They might comprehend (know) the _____ of it -- **fathomless!**
God's love goes to the depths of our needs, and lifts us! (Psa. 40:1-3)
- d. They might comprehend (know) the _____ of it -- **measureless!**
It reaches up bringing our present privileges and our eternal happiness!
3. In what way (or ways) is the *love of Christ* known, embraced, and controlling your life? _____

4. How is the power of God seen in your present daily life? vs. 19b

II. Paul's Deep Convictions : (3:20-21) (always read text many times)

Paul had deep convictions; he knew God's power in his life through personal, daily experience. He also wanted the believers to know God's power in their lives in a practical way.

A. About God's Power: vs. 20

1. Power shortage is not something known to God.
2. Paul uses many superlatives to try and get across to us the **availability** of God's power for our personal lives.
3. The Holy Spirit led Paul to write: "**Now unto him that is _____ TO DO _____ abundantly _____ all that we ask or think,**"
4. God is ABLE to DO -- not just above, but **exceeding abundantly above** all we could ever pray for. Above what we could ask or even think possible.
5. It is based on what we ask for or pray for by _____. (Hebrews 11:6)
6. What does God teach us about faith in Romans 10:17? _____

7. What do the words -- **all, above, abundantly, exceeding** mean to you personally in your daily life? _____

8. This is all limited by or "**according to the _____ that worketh in us.**" vs. 20b
 - a. This word power is the Greek word **dunamis**, or the dynamite of God, meaning the **energeia** or **energy** found in God's ability. (Read 1:11, 19; 2:2; 3:7; and 4:16.) Is this personal? Do you live by His power?
 - b. God's energy is effectual, working in us and through us **as we allow Him to work His will, plan, and way in our lives.**
 - c. The only limit is the limit we put upon God's right and control in our lives. Consider how you might be limiting God? _____

B. About God's Glory in the Church: vs. 21

1. God only should receive the praise, glory, and honor. (See Rev. 5:12)

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2. The Spirit of God works to bring _____ to Christ. (See John 16:14.)
3. Our purpose ought to be to bring glory to God ***“in the _____ by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without _____.”***
4. We are to do that as a ***“spiritual household and _____ of God through the Spirit.”*** (See Ephesians 2:21-22.)
5. Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, calls us: (See I Peter 2:9.)
 - a. a _____ generation, ***“That we might show forth***
 - b. a _____ priesthood, ***His praises, who called us out***
 - c. an holy _____, ***darkness unto His***
 - d. a _____ (or special, set apart) people. ***marvelous light.”***

Consider:

1. What are the priorities of your life, what do you live for? _____

2. How important is the local church to you? (give your testimony or thoughts about this) _____

3. What are you trusting God for as you bring your requests to Him? _____

4. Find the four petitions that began with the word, ***that***. What were they?

A Healthy Body

Ephesians 4:1-16 • Lesson 7 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verse: *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”* (4:1)

Introduction:

The first three chapters of Ephesians dealt with the **wealth** of the Christian. Chapter four deals with the **walk** of the Christian. In this section, along with chapter five, Paul deals with the **walk** as it relates to the Church as well as to our personal daily life and relationships with others in various aspects of our daily life.

Chapters 1-3 teach us doctrine; chapters 4-6 teach Christian duty. **It is very important that we establish our behavior on the basis of beliefs (doctrine) rather than establish our beliefs on the basis of behavior.** Either our theology (doctrine) will dictate our lifestyle, or our lifestyle will dictate our theology. Paul, therefore, first establishes Biblical theology, and then proceeds to teach Christian behavior which results from understanding of our Biblical position in Christ.

Remember that the Church, including the Church Age, was the **mystery** that was revealed by God through Paul. In the last study we noted Paul's prayer and his deep concern for the local church and its power, fulness, and enablement through God's provisions. **The Church, as the mystery of God's doings revealed in this age, must also be a healthy body.** Remember the Church is set forth as the **bride** of Christ, His **body**, and His **building**. And the local church is the visible manifestation of this body, bride, and building.

Here we will study Paul's God-given burden as he deals with the Christian's part in helping to build a **healthy body -- a healthy church**. God is engaged in building a healthy, spiritual church and we are involved in making this possible as a part of that church. (Note Ephesians 2:21-22.)

I. Respect For the Body: Eph. 4:1-6 (Read text a number of times.)

A. Preserving the Church's Unity vss. 1-3

The resounding theme of chapter four is **unity** (vss. 3-6, 13, 16, 25). He is not speaking of the ecumenical unity of all faiths or beliefs, nor is he advancing the idea of unity of all religions. Instead, he teaches the **unity of the Spirit which is to be evident among the true believers in the Body of Christ.** (vs. 3)

1. Paul's general burden: *“we are called unto unity”*

a. Paul was burdened that the Christian **“walk _____ of the vocation wherewith ye are _____.”** vs. 1

b. What does that mean to you in practical application? _____

c. Paul wrote often about our **walk!** (Walk denotes direction, movement, action, purpose, and is a good word to describe how we are to live our daily life. Write a phrase from the following portions as to our walk.)

- Eph. 4:1 _____
- Eph. 4:17 _____
- Eph. 5:2 _____
- Eph. 5:8 _____

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- Eph. 5:15 _____
- d. Have you considered that YOU are **called?** What does the **call of God** mean to you? _____

(4:1)

What do the following teach?

- Rom. 11:29 _____

- II Tim. 1:9 _____

Paul could have approached this issue of godly living by giving harsh commands. However, he exhorted the Christians in love. His message was a heart-to-heart pleading (beseech YOU, vs.1) that they would perform what he taught them.

- e. The **goal** of this holy walk will be **“endeavoring to keep the _____ of the _____ in the bond of peace.”** (vs. 3) The word, **endeavor**, (Greek, **spoudazo**) means *to make haste, to be eager*. And the word, **keep** means *to watch over, to preserve*. We should be eager to preserve the unity that God’s Spirit will give to those who are at peace with God.

2. Paul reveals HOW this unity is kept. vss. 2-4

- a. By a **walk in low** _____! (vs. 2) The Greek word for **lowliness** is actually a compound of two words -- *low degree or brought low*, and the second, *of mind*.

- How did Paul serve? Acts 20:19? _____

- What do we read about Christ’s self-humbling in Phil. 2:5-11? _____

- Give the admonition as found in Philippians 2:3. _____

- Humility should lead us to a **b**_____ of **p**_____. (Eph. 4:3c)

- True humility will bring about submission and cooperation.

- b. By a **walk in m** _____! (vs. 2) Meekness is the inner spirit in which we accept God’s dealings with us as good and therefore without disputing or resisting.

We practice meekness by our surrender. (See Romans 6:16,19.)

Many Christians are confused about **rights!** We have no rights to do as we please for we were created by God, and purchased by Christ’s blood.

All our rights must be yielded to God -- that is true meekness.

- c. By a **walk of long** _____! (vs. 2) (See Gal. 5:23) It is strength under control. It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit’s control of our lives.

- d. By a **walk of “for _____ one another in _____.”** (vs 2) Literally, this word means to **endure!** It also means *to hold up or to sustain!*

- How does Galatians 6:2 relate to this? _____

- What does Colossians 3:13 teach us about forbearing? _____

There will be times when we are offended by the word, attitudes, and actions of others. But if unity is to be attained, we must learn to endure and forgive one another. This is accomplished in love. Our purpose is to restore, and not to condemn and judge others.

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B. Perceiving Its Unity (vss. 4-6) (Again read this portion a number of times.)

It is important that we note some of the texts where the word **body** is used in the New Testament as it relates to the Church. (Study the following: Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5; I Corinthians 12:12-31.)

There is a seven-fold unity that is needed in the Church.

1. **One** _____ (vs. 4) Christ is the head of this **body**. (4:15; Col. 1:18)
It is the head that is responsible for the nourishment of the entire physical man. the head gives orders to eat and drink. In similar fashion Christ nourishes His body, the Church, through the *joints of supply*. (See Eph. 4:16 and Col. 2:19.)
 - a. It is the h_____ that dir_____ the actions of the body.
 - b. What happens if some part of the body is hurt? Does it affect us?
 - c. Believers are _____ of Christ's body. (See I Cor. 12:27.)
Even as the temple of God (the physical body) is a growing temple, so the Body of Christ is a growing body. (Eph. 4:16)
2. **One** _____ (vs. 4) The Holy Spirit came as the Comforter to minister to the saints and to baptize them into that one body (I Cor. 12:13 ; Eph. 2:18-22) One Spirit **ind**_____ the **individual** and that is the Holy Spirit. (See I Cor. 6:19-20.)
3. **"even as you are called in ONE _____ of your calling.** (vs. 4)
There is **one hope!** (Consider the following verses, fill the blank.)
 - a. The hope of the _____ of the body. (Acts 23:6; 24:15)
 - b. The hope of the _____. (Col. 1:23)
 - c. The hope of _____ with the loved ones in Christ. (I Thes. 4:13-18)
 - d. The hope of _____ in all its fullness. (I Thess. 5:8)
 - e. The hope of _____. (Gal. 5:5)
 - f. The hope of _____ to be revealed in us. (Rom. 8:18)
 - g. The hope of _____ life. (Titus 1:2)
 - h. The blessed hope of _____ return. (Titus 2:13)
4. **One** _____ (vs. 5) Recognition of the lordship of Christ builds _____ among God's children. When we all seek direction from Him, we will all walk in fellowship. (See I John 1:7.)
5. **One** _____ (vs 5) Jude 3 reminds of us of **"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** This faith comes by _____ the Word of God. (Rom. 10:17) If we are to have unity among the saved, the inspiration and infallibility of the Word of God must be taught, and embraced. **It must be our only authority for faith and practice.**
6. **One** _____ (vs 5) Without doubt he is writing of the baptism of the _____ as found in I Corinthians 12:13. *Spirit baptism is that work of the Spirit whereby all the saved are put into the body and/or bride of Christ.*
7. **One** _____ and _____ **of** _____, **who is** _____ **all, and through all, and** _____ **you all.** (vs. 6) This completes the unity

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because this work of unity is only through God.

- We saw God the Spirit in verse 4,
- God the Son in verse 5, and now God the Father, the sovereign in verse 6.
- God is called _____ to emphasize the **family unity of believers**. (See Eph. 2:19; 3:15.)

II. Resources For the body -- their distribution: (4:7-16) (read, reread)

A. All of God's abundant, abounding _____ is available. (vs. 7)

God has made abundant provisions for the building of the church. Grace is *desire and ability* to do God's will and work. (Phil. 2:13) Christ unifies His people by giving them His grace. We are the recipients of the resources we need, and each of us is equipped adequately to do his own job for God. We have the right quality and quantity of spiritual resources because it is *according to the measure of the gift of Christ*. (vs. 7)

B. Christ "gave _____ unto men." (vs. 8-11)

Christ unified believers by leading captive a multitude of prisoners. (vs 8) Through His death, Christ defeated the forces of Satan. This important passage describes His descent into hades to set free a *multitude of captives*. *Christ took the saved to heaven (who had died in faith as Old Testament saved people). These had been in Abraham's bosom*. There was a part or area in hades, a place where souls waited until the resurrection. **Christ was victor over death, and took these saved to be with Himself in glory. As our victor He was crowned with glory and honor.** (Read Eph. 4:8-10; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 2:7, 9.)

1. Christ equips His Church. He gave "_____ unto men." (vs. 8)

2. Those gifts were people whom He called to further the ministry of the gospel, through the Church.

a. "He gave some, _____, and some _____, and some _____; and some _____ and _____." (vs. 11)

b. Which ones are gifts still given today? _____, _____, and _____.

c. Examine Romans 12:6-8, what do you find there about gifts?

III. Resources For the Body -- their dynamics! (4:12-16)

The purposes for which these gifted men were given to Christ's body are stated in Ephesians 4:12-16. Basically, they were given to preach, teach the Word, and to exhort and encourage the saints to serve God. The saints are thus equipped for service. These gifted men (vs 11) are the **spark plugs to fire up the saints to work for Christ, with the result that the Body of Christ grows.**

A. To equip the saints.... "_____ of the saints." (vs. 12)

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1. There should be no comma in the text between *saints* and *for the work of the ministry*. God desires saints be perfected for **their work** of ministry.
2. Leaders (as listed above) are to labor to equip the saints “for the _____ of the (their) ministry.”
3. The word *equip* means “to outfit, to put in order, to arrange.”
 - a. Are you ready and willing to be equipped, outfitted, prepared for greater service? _____ How? _____
 - b. Are you willing to follow leaders as they seek to equip you? _____

B. To encourage the saints... “for the work of the _____.” (vs. 12)

1. What does God want according to II Tim. 2:2? _____
2. Spirit-led believers will naturally submit themselves to godly men whom Christ has given to them as His gifts.
3. What does Hebrews 13:7, 17 teach us? _____

C. To edify the saints. . . “edify of the body” (vs. 12)

1. The purpose is “for the _____ of the body of Christ:” (vs. 12)
2. This means certain things: (for growth -- numbers, strength, in love)
 - a. “til we all _____ in the unity of the faith, and of the _____ of the Son of God...” (vs. 13)
 - b. “unto a _____ (complete, mature) man, unto the _____ of the stature of the _____ of Christ.” (vs. 13)
3. This necessitates both **evang**_____ and **disc**_____ in the local church. Are you involved? _____ If so, how? _____

D. To fulfill the purposes God has given!~ (vss. 13-16)

1. That the saints might be **conformed** to Christ. God desires that we might have “_____ of the Son of God and come to the measure of the _____ of the fulness of Christ.” (vs. 13)
 - a. Are you growing unto that fulness? _____ How? _____
 - b. What would this fulness bring in your life? _____
2. **That the saints might:** (vs. 14)
 - a. “henceforth be no _____ children, _____ to and fro,
 - b. “and _____ about with every wind of _____,”
 - c. “by the _____ of men, and _____ craftiness,

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whereby they lie in wait to _____." (vs. 14)

- d. Are you applying doctrine, (teaching) when it is given at church services, Sunday School, and various studies? _____ Do you take notes on messages? _____ And do you review those notes? _____
 - e. How can you better apply God's Word? _____
-

3. **That the saints might "speak the _____ in _____, may grow up into Him in all _____, which is the _____, even Christ."** (vs. 15)

- a. "**Speaking the truth in love**" means to watch over our tongues, (and thoughts) that we do not **speak** _____ to others or to ourselves.
 - b. Note verse 25 ! What does it teach you? _____
-

- c. Verse 15, **speaking the truth in love**, is the first principle of good communication in the home and all other relationships. **We must** --
 - **speak** -- not clam up, be unwilling to talk; we are commanded to speak.
 - **the truth** -- not denying, or speaking falsely, but truth speaking.
 - **in love** -- not hateful, hurting others, but edifying them.

4. **That the saints might "be fitly _____ together."** (vs. 16)

- a. We are to be to others what the **joints** of our body are to us. We are to supply the needs of others, "**according to the _____ of every part...**" Or according to our gifts and God-given abilities. (vs. 16)
- b. God wants us to complement one another, contributing to the ministry as we have part in "**making increase of the _____ unto the edifying of itself in _____.**" (vs. 16c)

Conclusions:

The health of the body of Christ, (the local church) depends upon every saved person. Each member has a work to perform, a ministry to fulfill, and a Savior to glorify. Building the local church is not the job of pastor-teachers or evangelists, but the work of every saint of God.

1. What are you **doing** to bring unity? _____
 2. How are you a **gift** to others in the church? _____
 3. What are you doing to equip (or be equipped), to help build the body? _____
-

Learning To Walk

Ephesians 4:17-32 • Lesson 8 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verse: “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Eph. 4:24

Introduction:

Warren W. Wiersbe titled this portion, *Taking Off the Grave clothes!* There is a reason for this. It is God’s will that our walk be a walk in purity. In order for this to take place, we must remove the grave clothes of our past. Grave clothes speak of the things of death, corruption, and/or the things of the old nature and the practice of sin. We are to walk in the victory that is in Christ Jesus. Grave clothes bind, enslave, and represent our sinful habits and practices of the past from which Christ came to set us free. (Gal. 1:4; Rom. 8:37; II Cor. 1:14)

In this portion we will see that a great emphasis is put upon our thoughts. Our actions spring from our thoughts, for *as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.* (Prov. 23:7) And our thoughts are built around what we believe about the world about us. We easily build a *belief system* about many things which can be totally contrary to what the Word of God teaches.

What the unsaved live (their walk) is based upon what they believe, and thus what they think. Our thoughts have far greater impact upon our actions than we realize. Christ said, “**ye shall know the truth (what you think upon, have in your heart) and the truth shall set you free.**” (John 8:32)

I. The Wrong Walk -- Eph. 4:17-19 (Read, reread, and ponder the text)

A. The Error of Their Thinking! vss. 17-18

1. The natural man **darkens his mind!** “**having the _____ darkened.**” (vs. 18) This is a deliberate choice. The word, understanding means “*to think through.*” They reject truth and so are blinded.
 - a. The unsaved are “**alienated from the _____ of God through the _____ that is in them.**” (vs. 18) And they cannot think about and understand spiritual things and see God’s truth. (See I Cor. 2:14.)
 - b. **Alienated** means to be **estranged or shut out from one’s fellowship.**
 - c. There is a pattern of decay that takes place and permeates every area of man’s existence. (See Romans 1:8-32.)
 - d. The truth of the Word of God is called _____. (Psa. 119:130)
 - e. Satan seeks to _____ mankind so they don’t come to Christ. (See II Cor. 4:3-4.)
 - f. God’s purpose for preaching and teaching is to bring light to darkened _____. (Acts 26:18)
 - g. What has God done for you in this area since you were saved? _____
2. The natural man **dulls his mind!** It is because of the “**blindness of _____ heart.**” (vs. 18) This blindness literally means to **cover with a callous.**
 - a. Unsaved people have deliberate _____ of heart. (Heb. 3:8, 13)

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- b. They **reject** the Word of God and become more blind.
- c. What if, after salvation, you become hard of heart, will you gradually become blind to your real needs? _____ What should you do?

It is the ignorance and rejection of liberating truth of the Word of God that causes man to walk in darkness and failure. When the mind's focus is self and not God, we will live for materialism, and all that the world offers of sin and self-indulgence -- poverty, crime, violence, and every kind of wickedness becomes the norm. ***The man who continues to allow (chooses) his mind to be darkened will find it hard to have any spiritual conviction.***

B. The Results of Their Thinking: vs. 19

1. The natural man ***delivers his mind over to lasciviousness.*** vs. 19
 - a. ***"Who being past _____ have given themselves over unto _____"***
 - b. They become past feeling, or ***insensate*** _____ to spiritual things. They give themselves over to deliberately work wickedness in their own lives.
 - c. When a person rejects God's truth, he does not free himself to do as he wants; ***he is imprisoned to his own deceitful _____.*** (vs. 22)
 - d. Lasciviousness means ***"to stir up sensual and sexual desires."*** This practice brings a complete surrendering of restraint and a loss of conscience. (Compare Romans 1:24-28 with Acts 24:16.)
 - e. Is a pure mind important? _____ What are you doing to maintain purity of thought life? _____
_____ (Consider Psa. 119:9,11.)
2. The natural man ***works all "uncleanness with _____."*** vs. 19
 - a. Selfish, sinful, immoral lusts dictate the actions of his life.
 - b. Having given himself over to a lustful mind the outward actions, deeds, thoughts, and motivations of the _____ become decisions of uncleanness with utter abandonment.

II. The Worthy Walk -- Eph. 4:20-32 (Read this text many times.)

But we have not "so _____ Christ, if so be that ye have _____ him, and have been _____ by him, as the truth is in Jesus." (vs. 20,21)
What a contrast between the mind controlled by God, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the mind controlled by the lustful, wicked, sinful heart and nature of an unsaved (unregenerated) person.

A. The Saint's Mind vss. 20-24

1. The mind is ***motivated by what we have learned and been taught.*** (vs. 20-21)
 - a. To ***"learn _____,"*** means to have a personal relationship with Him.
 - b. By the study of the Word of God, we have ***heard*** and been ***"taught _____ by him, as the _____ is in Jesus."*** Christ changes our minds, our outlook, and character as we ***obey*** the Scriptures.
 - c. What are you doing to make obedience of the Word of God easier? _____

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2. The mind **not occupied with Christ is usually corrupt!** (vs. 22)
Everything outside of Christ is dying, in the state of death, or becoming corrupt!
- We are commanded to “ _____ ” the works of the old man (sin nature).
 - The word **conversation** is an old English word meaning “manner of life.” Our life style should be transformed.
 - The manner of life and **deceitful** _____ comes from a mind controlled by the dictates of a sinful nature. (vs. 22)
 - To what extent do you feel you are allowing the Lord to change your thinking, your life style? _____
-
3. The **renewed mind** is a mind controlled by Christ, by the Word of God through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (vs. 23)
- Conversion is a crisis that leads to a process of _____ as we renew our minds with the Word of God **daily**. (See Rom. 12:2; Psa. 1:2-3.)
 - God wants to bring “**transf_____ in our lives**” as we apply the Word of God. Only then can we prove out in daily life “**what is that good, and _____, and _____, will of God.**” (See Romans 12:2.)
 - We are “**sanctified through _____**”...*God's word*. (See John 17:17.)
4. The mind occupied with Christ will bring **true holiness**. (vs. 24)
- We must “ _____ **the new man,**” or the new nature which is given of God. (vs. 24) (See II Pet. 1:4) **God imparted this to us!**
 - This new nature is the work of God in us, given us at the time of our salvation, “**for of His own free will _____ He us with the _____ of truth.**” (See James 1:18.)
 - The following verses prove the impact of the mind or thoughts on the “**put off and put on**” process. (Prov. 23:7; Jh. 8:32; Matt. 12:35-36; II Cor. 10:3-5)
 - It is a process, whereby we have a change of thinking as we more and more think God's thoughts as we put forth the effort for His Word to permeate our minds. How are you applying this principle?

B. The Saints Walk (vss. 25-32)

Paul has given three very important principles -- **put off, put on, and be renewed daily in the spirit of the mind**. Now he applies these principles. He names sins and the importance of the *put off and put on* process in order to have change.

Fundamental Christians have often been accused of being negative, of teaching a system of **don'ts and thou shalt nots**. This accusation is not true to Scripture. For every sin that God commands us to surrender, God gives us a positive action to fill the vacuum. This **replacement principle** is important for us to practice. Those Christians who try to put off _____ the old man, but never put on the new man, will find themselves falling into deeper sin.

A. We are to **put off**:

“ _____ ” (vs 25)

“ _____ ” (vs. 26)

We are urged to **put on the opposite**:

“*speak, every man _____.*” vs. 25

anger dealt with before dark, vs. 26

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“ _____ ” (vs. 28)

“*rather let him _____, working with his _____ the thing which is _____, he may have to give to him that _____.*” (vs. 28)

“ _____ speech” (vs. 29)

“*but that which is _____ to the use of _____.*” (vs. 29)

“*bitterness, wrath, _____, clamor, evil _____.*” (vs 31)

“*And be ye _____, tenderhearted, _____ one another.*” vs. 32

B. Some thoughts to consider about the above list:

1. It is easy to allow anger *to leave in the soul* an irritation or bitterness which lingers on. This attitude will give “**place to the _____.**” (vs. 27) For Satan will then have an advantage we have given him.
2. A man who steals must do three things to conquer his sin: (vs. 28)
 - a. “**rather let _____,**” He must find a job.
 - b. “**work with his _____**” in an honorable work,
 - c. “**_____ to him that is need,** or give to others of the fruit of his labor.
3. Edifying others is defined as “**ministering _____ unto the _____.**” (vs. 29)
Our words ought to be gracious as they encourage others.

C. Lets consider a bit of the meaning of words in verse 31.

Paul here writes of those things we are to **put off.**

1. _____ means **resentfulness** held on to tenaciously.
 2. _____ means a **violent outburst** of anger, like boiling water, exhibited in many outward ways that hurt, destroy, and bring anguish to others.
 3. _____ involves a settled state of mind, holding on to **hostilities.**
 4. _____ is **slandorous speech.**
 5. _____ is the outworking of bitterness seen in holding on to **ill will and wicked intent.** There is a desire for revenge.
-

Applications:

1. How active are you in *putting off and putting on* the things God desires for you to change? _____

2. Write a list of things to **put off** from Colossians 3:8-9. _____

3. Write a list of things to **put on** from Colossians 3:12-14. (We do this as His **elect, holy, and beloved.**) _____

4. This is the practice of the ***principle of replacement*** - replacing the walk of the old man with the walk in the new man (the new nature). This necessitates our breaking old ha_____ and replacing the sinful practices with god____ habits.
5. All of this has to do with the ***walk*** of the Christian. We are in a **walk** -- there is **progression, direction,** and a **destination** even in the walk of the saved person.
6. Walking denotes a ***goal, an aim, and an effort*** to achieve the walk God desires.
7. The Christian is to manifest surrender to the Holy Spirit of God. We are to walk so as to not “_____ ***the Holy Spirit, whereby ye are*** _____ ***unto the day of redemption.***” (vs. 30)
8. We can only do this as we constantly allow Him to control our minds as we fill our minds with ***truth, which is God’s Word -- memorized, meditated upon, loved, and then lived out in daily life.***

Walking In The Light

Ephesians 5:1-8 • Lesson 9 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verse: “ *Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.*” Eph. 5:7-8

Introduction:

When one sits in a dark room for a while, he gradually gets used to the darkness. He eyes focus upon the dimly outlined objects in the darkened surroundings and he thinks he *is seeing!* But let someone step to the door and flip on the light switch and he will soon realize there were endless details that he was missing in the room.

In much the same manner, God warns us against getting used to the darkness around us. It is easy to do. We live in a world that abides in the darkness of sin, ignorance, and rejection of God and His Word. It is easy to walk as the unsaved do, with a darkened mind - thinking and living as they live - in the darkness of sinful practices. **We all too easily get used to the dark.** If it is our habit to watch a lot of TV, we will gradually lose our convictions about sin and find compromise a way of life. We will allow *darkness in our own souls!*

We must see the difference between -- the holy and unholy, the clean and the unclean, light and darkness!

I. Walking As Children of God -- Eph. 5:1-4 (Read the verses many times.)

A. Seek to Be a Follower! (vs. 1)

We have all heard of or seen a little boy try to walk in his father's footsteps. This is what God is asking us to do. To walk as He walks. The boy reaches to step in his father's very footsteps, so may we endeavor to walk pleasing to Him.

1. “**Be ye _____ followers of God, as _____ children.**” vs. 1
2. He says “therefore”, why does he say this? Because of what he had just written in Ephesians 4:17-32. *Therefore because of the foregoing -- walk!*
3. The word, “*follower*” is taken from a word closely akin to “*mimic*.” It means to be an imitator!
 - a. We are to make a conscious effort to act like God _____.
 - b. We are to develop godlike character qualities. What are you doing to make this a reality in your life? _____
4. We all learn from models; we all are imitators. Who are you patterning your life after, or who has the most influence on you? _____
Why? _____
5. Who do your children (or teens) have as heroes? Parents____, admired peers _____, rock stars _____, TV celebrities _____, great missionaries _____, Bible characters _____, Others _____? (Put a check in right place.)

B. Seek to Follow as “*dear*” children: (vs. 1)

1. Do you act as His child, or a child of sin or of Satan? _____

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2. We are very dear to our Heavenly Father, and this term is a term of the "*affection of a loving parent.*"

3. Do you reject His love, direction and admonitions? _____ If so, why?

4. We must walk with God -- practice His presence -- fellowship from Him!

C. Seek to be a Follower In Love! (vs. 2)

1. "***And _____ in _____, as Christ also hath loved us.***"

2. If we imitate God, we will walk in love as His "_____."

3. The very love He commands, He first demonstrated (Rom. 5:8; I Jh 4:9,10) and then put this love into our hearts by the _____ (Rom. 5:5)

4. We can't find this love in ourselves, but through Him whom we imitate.

5. It is the love that caused Him to give Himself, "***hath given Himself for us for an _____ to God for a sweetsmelling savour (sacrifice).***" vs 2

6. Christ, our model -- **emptied** Himself, **humbled** Himself, and **offered** Himself for our sins. (See Phil. 2:5-11.)

D. Seek to Shun Filthiness! (vss. 3-4)

1. The alternative to "***walking in love***" is adopting the world's brand of "*love.*" What is your practice of love like? _____

2. This is described in verse three as living a life of "***fornication, and all _____, or covetousness.***"

3. The opposite of godly love is that which is found in popular TV soap operas, and lewd magazines, of which there are many.

4. What the world calls ***love*** God calls ***I_____!***

5. ***Fornication*** comes from a word like our word, "*pornographic,*" and means "*illicit sexual intercourse.*"

6. "***Covet_____***" is the most frequently denounced sin in the New Testament. Does that surprise you? _____ Why do you think this is so?

7. What does God say about these things in verse three? "***let it _____.***"

8. In verse four we read, "***Neither _____, nor _____ talking, nor _____, which are not convenient, but rather _____ of thanks.***"

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9. The sins mentioned here are sins of a *corrupt society*. We hear much filthy talk, that is empty of any good, and often jesting over filthy jokes.
- filthy** means “*basedness or dishonor, to disfigure, dishonor or cover with shame.*”
 - foolish talking** is translated by one author as “*foul-mouthed abuse.*” It means *godless discourse or speech.*
 - jesting** here refers to “*impure speech, immortal pleasantries, sharing that which is evil in implication!*”
 - These are not convenient; there ought to be a “*giving of _____.*” vs. 4

II. *Walking As Children of Light!* 5:5-8 (Read many times.)

Light and darkness are used throughout the Scriptures to demonstrate the contrast between good and evil. God wants His children to have discernment about the difference and to have a heart after godliness. We must be motivated to separate ourselves from the world in our behavior. (Consider II Cor. 6:14-18.)

A. Characteristics of the “*children of _____.*” (vss. 5-6)

- A **changed life** is an evidence that the Gentiles believers of Ephesus were truly saved and possessed the “*riches of the _____ of his inheritance in the saints.*” (Eph. 1:18)
- “*For this ye _____, that _____ whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor _____ man, who is an idolater, hath _____ in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*” (vs. 5)

The **doctrine of eternal security** used to be called “*the perseverance of the saints.*” It was said that if a person were genuinely converted, one could tell it by watching the consistency of the life of the “convert”. If his behavior remained consistent with the Bible standards, it was evidence he was a true believer. (That is the thought of Ephesians 5:5. Read it and think about it.)

- We are saved totally by _____ and God’s _____ alone. (Eph. 2:4-9)
 - We are not saved by refraining from evil practices listed in verse 5 but by salvation through the blood of Christ alone. (I Pet. 1:18-20)
 - But if we are saved **we won’t want** to live these evil practices!!
- What will bring the wrath of God upon us? (5:5-6) _____
Disobedience in what? _____

- A false idea of grace is that we can _____ all we want to! (See Rom. 6:1-2)
- Some may think we have a license unto _____ to do as we please since we are saved. (See Gal. 5:1, 13.) Is this true? _____

There are false teachers of grace who promote a false concept of grace that teaches a person’s behavior is not an issue with God. These teachings are deceitful and they will bring the “*wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*” (Read I John 2:1-6.)

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B. Walk as Children of Light - (vss. 6-8)

1. As *children of light* we should not want to behave as “**children of disobedience.**” God sounds a stern warning in verse 6 that this is to be heeded in this lawless age.
2. “**Be NOT ye therefore _____ with them.**” vs. 7
3. We used to walk in _____, but now “**are ye _____ in the _____: walk as _____ of light.**” vs 8
4. How did people know that Zaccheus truly was saved and a change had taken place in his life? (Read Luke 19:1-10.)
5. We cannot walk darkness and light at the same time. Note the contrasts given in II Corinthians 6:14-18.
 - a. 6:14 “**what fellowship _____?**”
 - b. 6:14 “**and what _____?**”
 - c. 6:15 “**and what _____?**”
 - d. 6:15 “**or what part _____?**”
 - e. 6:16a “**and what agreement _____?**”
6. On the basis of what Paul wrote in II Corinthians 6:14-16, what does God command us in 6:17? _____

7. What does God promise us in II Corinthians 6:16 and 18?
 - a. “**I will _____, and walk _____, I will be their _____, and they shall be my _____.**” vs. 16
 - b. “**And will a _____ unto you, and ye shall be my _____ and _____, saith the Lord Almighty.**” vs 18

We are to be separate and distinct -- shining as lights in the darkness around us. The character of the Lord Jesus should be seen in us!

Walking In The Spirit

Ephesians 5:9-20 • Lesson 10 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verses: “For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.” (Eph. 5:9-10)

Introduction:

Queen Victoria of England made an unofficial visit to one of England’s large mills. As she was conducted to the *rag room*, she was appalled at the mountain of filthy rags brought from throughout the kingdom. They were using a chemical process by which the color and filth was removed. Later she received lovely white linen stationery embossed with an emblem of the queen. She was amazed at the beauty that came out of rags. God is at work in us to make something lovely out of our lives.

God’s will is for us to be fruitful. We are to be like a fruitful tree. (See Psalm 1.) The focus of our lives ought to be on fruitfulness, upon producing rather than on obtaining. Our focus ought to be on giving rather than on receiving from the world around us.

In John fifteen, Christ took up the subject of fruit-bearing with His disciples. He reminded them that the secret of fruit-bearing is to *abide in Him*, and to allow *His Word to abide in us*. Christ spoke of three levels of fruitfulness -- *fruit, more fruit, and much fruit*. Largely, fruitfulness depends upon us.

The fruitfulness God desires is possible because of the great change that God has brought about in our lives. It is as dramatic as the transformation of the worst, filthy rages into the most exquisite stationery. As filthy scraps of cloth can become lovely stationery, so God can take our filthy, corrupt, sinful lives and make them into lovely fruit-bearing saints for His glory. (Compare with Isaiah 64:6.)

I. The Proof Is In the Fruit -- Eph. 5:9-13 (always read the text many times)

Christ said, “By their _____ ye shall know them.” (Matthew 7:20) There ought to be a great number of distinctions between the saved and the lost around us. *We were in darkness, but now we are light in the Lord!*

A. Fruit of the Holy Spirit’s working should be evidenced in the life.

vss. 9-10

Orange trees do not grow apples. If you watch a fruit-bearing tree long enough, you will be able to tell what kind it is by its fruit. The same is true of a life.

A person can pretend for a while, but if you watch long enough, you will be able to tell what sort of life the person lives by his fruit. Spiritual life will bear spiritual fruit.

1. The Holy Spirit produces “**good**_____!” vs. 9

a. Goodness is **I**_____ in action. (I Cor. 13:1-4) Goodness rules out selfishness of any kind. Goodness springs from what we _____ not just what we *do!*

b. It comes from a godly inner life in which the Holy Spirit is in control of the inner character. (Read I Corinthians 13:1-8.)

2. The Holy Spirit produces “**right**_____!” vs. 9

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- a. This is moral straightness that produces a conscience “_____ **offense**” (Acts 24:16) and a life that avoids the appearance of evil.
 - b. “...**He that doeth _____ is righteous...**” (I John 3:7b)
 - c. He seeks to remain consistent and does not change his actions to fit the circumstances. (See I John 2:3-6.)
3. The Holy Spirit produces a walk in, or a practice of “_____!”
See vs. 9. (**Truth** is never relative; it is objective and absolute.)
- a. Truth is the opposite of walking in a false way. (See Psalm 119:128.)
 - b. The application of truth will bring a “**hatred of _____**” “**We will esteem all thy (God’s) _____ concerning all _____ to be _____.**” (See Psa. 119:128)
 - c. God’s truth is never out of season; it never becomes obsolete; it always is the authority for our **faith and _____, or what we live.**
 - d. In daily life we are to “**prove what is _____ unto the Lord.**” vs. 10 **Our lives should approve that which is acceptable!**
How can we do that? _____
 - e. What are you doing in a practical way that will help you to walk in truth? _____

B. Our walk will be manifested as a walk in _____! vss. 11-13 What does light do? In this text we see that light **reveals, expresses, and exposes!** A doctor works in the light!

1. We are to “**have no _____ with the _____ works of darkness, but rather _____ them.**” vs. 11
 - a. We will remove ourselves from any friendships that causes us to compromise with sin, or seems to be an acceptance of sin, and we will “**_____ from the _____ of evil.**” (See I Thess. 5:22.)
 - b. There can’t be any real fellowship with darkness. (See II Cor. 6:14-17.)
2. What does God think about conversations concerning the evil around us?
“**For it is a _____ even to _____ of those things which are done of _____ in _____.**” vs. 12
 - a. We must actively reject the sinful actions of evil people. And we are not to make this the subject of our conversation in our homes.
 - b. We should be so sensitive to sinful things that we would be ashamed to speak of or talk about peoples’ wickedness.
 - c. How are you applying this in your home? _____
 - d. Why do you think God gave us this command? _____
3. Verse thirteen teaches us that **our very life ought to expose the sin and darkness around us.** That is, our life style should cause shame on the part of those who practice sin.
 - a. Do you think this is true of Christians today? _____ Why not or why so? _____

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- b. What can we do in a practical way in public (work, etc.) to reprove sin and yet show Christ's love? _____
-

II. The Fruit the Holy Spirit Produces In the Heart! Eph. 5:14-20

Fruitfulness goes back to the source, to the Lord Himself! If we are alive from the dead (2:1-4), and walk in the light of the gospel that has shined in our hearts, then we will be different. The Holy Spirit will produce fruit from and in our yielded hearts.

How can we be fruitful? Because of these things we learned in the book of Ephesians. These are wonderful privileges we have in HIM!

1. **Blessed privilege -- 1:1-14**
2. **Personal forgiveness -- 2:1-9**
3. **Glorious purpose -- 2:10, 3:1-13**
4. **Personal power -- 3:14-21**
5. **Perfecting of my walk -- 4:1-32**
6. **Personal walk in light -- 5:1-8**

A. The kind of life the Spirit would produce in us. vss. 14-17

1. Wherefore he saith, “_____ **thou that _____, and arise from the dead, and _____ shall give thee light.**” vs. 14

a. We must awaken from **apathy!**

b. It so easy for the Christian to become cold of heart, to leave his first _____, (Rev. 2:4) and to become careless about godly living.

c. How would you apply this to your life? _____

2. “**See then that ye _____ circumspectly, _____, but as _____.**” vs. 15

a. This means to *walk watchfully, carefully, watching over the heart that we don't walk in sin.*”

b. Read Proverbs 4:23 and write the verse here: _____

c. To walk circumspectly is to walk **ever so carefully** as a cat would on a high wall between two mean dogs. (See Ephesians 4:26-27, 6:11.)

d. How would you apply this to your life? _____

3. We are to live that we might “_____ **the time, because the _____ are evil.**” vs. 16

a. We are to *buy up* the opportunities to serve the Lord.

b. Evil days necessitate wisdom in the usage of time to reach the _____.

4. We must know the will of God. “**Wherefore be ye NOT _____, but _____ what the will of the Lord is!**” vs. 17

a. We need to be wise, discerning God's will for our _____.

b. What three things does Proverbs 3:5-6 teach us about finding His will?

“**Trust in the _____ with all thine _____, and lean not unto _____ own _____, in all thy _____ acknowledge _____ (God) and He shall**

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- _____ *thy paths.*" (Prov. 3:5-6)
c. God's will is **knowable, do-able** and **precious**. (See Rom. 12:2.)
d. Are you walking in God's will for you? _____ How do you know?

B. The kind of fruit the Spirit would produce in us vss. 18-20

1. The fruit of a controlled life! "**And be not** _____ (or controlled by alcohol) **with** _____, **but be** _____ **with the Spirit.**" vs. 18
a. We are to live a life submitted to the Holy Spirit's _____.
b. How is the Holy Spirit's control seen in your life? _____

2. The fruit of a worshiping heart! "**Speaking to** _____ **in psalms and** _____ **and** _____ **songs, singing and making** _____ **in your** _____ **to the Lord.**" vs. 19
a. The Holy Spirit in control in our lives will bring inner rejoicing which pleases God.
b. We will be meditating on Him and His person, singing praises, and worshiping as a result of the Spirit's work in us.
c. Is this true of you? _____ When? _____
3. The fruit of a thankful heart! "**Giving** _____ **always for** _____ **things unto God and the Father in the** _____ **of our Lord Jesus Christ.**" vs. 20
a. The opposite of thankfulness is *gripping, grumbling, and* _____ which the Israelites did a lot of. (See I Cor. 10:10.)
b. What was the Israelites' chief sins? (Read Exod 16:2, 7, 8, 12; 17:1-7)

c. What is God's will according to I Thessalonians 5:18? _____

d. How important is thankfulness? _____

e. If you have children, or grand-children, what are doing to teach thankfulness? _____

The Holy Spirit wants to produce in our lives the good things we have seen in this study.

This necessitates our being "filled by and walking" in the Spirit.

Walking In Submission

Ephesians 5:21-33 • Lesson 11 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verse: “Nevertheless let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” Eph. 5:33
(Or you might want to memorize 5:22 and verse 25.)

Introduction:

Paul had been dealing in the area of general relationships. Here he states a general principle for maintaining a proper and harmonious relationship with believers in general and especially in the home... **“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”** (Eph. 5:21)

Submitting one’s self to another is the opposite of self-assertion, of an independent, autocratic spirit. It is the desire to get along with one another, being satisfied with less than what one thinks is his due, and having a sweet reasonableness of attitude... putting others first.

How could an unmarried person like Paul assume he could give advice on marriage? The question arises out of a heresy about life. The perverted view is that in order to **know**, one must **experience**. As Eve desired to experience the knowledge of good and evil. The correct view is that you start with **truth** and then **you proceed to experience**.

Paul, though not married, was sharing truth. As a Spirit-filled believer, led by the Holy Spirit in what to write, he was able to look at marriage and understand that it is supposed to picture the relationship that exists between Christ and the Church.

If our marriage is to be successful, **we must approach it from truth not experience**. Marriage can only be what it ought to be when we apply the principles of the **thus saith the Lord**, even as given through Paul.

Related portions: Colossians 3:12-25; Titus 2:1-15; I Peter 3:1-13

I. The Wife Is To Picture the Church: Eph. 5:21-24 (Read, reread text)

Questions to ponder:

1. What is a wife’s job, or function?
2. What is she doing here on earth? What is her purpose?
3. Has God changed His mind in this age when there is so much emphasis upon *women’s liberation, or women’s lib*?
4. How can a wife have real liberation? How can she know real freedom from anxiety and frustration?

God’s real purpose for the married woman is for her to function as a lovely, living symbol of another divine institution, the Church of the Living God.

A. A wife’s willing Submission -- 5:21

1. The **spirit of the believer** is to be one of submission. **“submitting to _____.”** We are to be first subject unto _____.
 - a. Every Christian has people to whom he is to submit in daily life.
 - b. No one can be a spiritual Christian without _____. vs. 21
 - c. A husband must submit in order to truly meet his _____ needs.

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2. The *spirit of the wife is to be one of submission.*

(I Pet. 3:1-6, Col. 3:18)

- a. If this is a problem, she probably has not made Christ _____ of her _____. (See Rom. 14:9.)
- b. **"...first gave their own _____ to the Lord."** (II Cor. 8:5) The wife to be submissive, must first submit to the Savior.
- c. A wife who is submissive to God will find it easy to be in _____ to her husband. (See I Pet. 3:1)

The word, from which subjection is translated as a military order under a commanding officer -- it denoted the subordination of soldiers to those in authority. There also must be a recognition of headship in the home. Subjecting ones self to another militates against the flesh or our sin nature. A strong motive is needed to bring about such an attitude on the part of the wife. Paul says the thing that will do it is a **reverential _____, a desire not to displease and dishonoring God.**

- d. Wife, what are you doing, actively, to be a submissive wife? _____

2. The *spirit of the husband* must also be one of submission. vs. 21

- a. The husband must submit his own **w**_____, put away his selfishness, and in the spirit of humility, meet the needs of his **w**_____.
- b. If the husband does not submit to God's will, nor meet the needs of his wife, he probably will mistreat her and become **b**_____ towards her. (See Colossians 3:19.)
- c. Husband, how are you showing submissiveness in the relationships with the family? _____

B. A wife's total submission is ordained by God. vss. 22-24

1. There is only ONE person to whom she is to submit -- her _____.

- a. God says, **"Wives, _____ yourselves unto your husband as _____ the Lord."** vs. 22
- b. What does "unto the Lord," mean? _____

- c. She is to **rev**_____ and **lo**_____ her husband. (See Ephesians 5:33 and Titus 2:4.)
- d. Her walk with the Lord must be her first obligation. What do you find in Matt. 6:33? _____

2. Submission means, **"as the _____ is subject unto Christ, so let the _____ be to their own husbands in _____."** vs. 24

- a. There must be the **act**_____ **of submission and the attit**_____ **of a submissive spirit.**
- b. This is to take place because **"the husband is _____ of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the _____, and he is the savior of the body."** vs. 23
- c. Wife, how would you apply this to your life? _____

- d. Is submission something to dread, or dislike, and to seek to avoid? _____
If not, why not? _____

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Questions to ponder:

1. What would you think of a church exercising authority over Christ?
 2. In what ways is the church to be a type of the wife, and the wife to fulfill the role of the church and its relationship to Christ?
 3. Why, in marriage, is the husband to be over the wife? How is this pictured in the relationship of Christ and the Church?
 4. Who has the greater responsibility? How does this apply to you? _____
-

C. The wife is to submit primarily to her own husband.

1. When a wife is submissive to someone else's husband in the work place, and not submissive to her own _____ at home, this is dangerous.
2. God also states that she is to submit in **ev** _____ vs. 24
This requires a lot of faith on the part of the wife, but God will honor that.
3. And all of us are under a higher authority than a spouse. Who is that?
(Acts 5:39) _____

If an unsaved husband would ask his saved wife to be involved in some sinful act, she must lovingly inform him that she is under God, her higher authority, and she can't and won't be involved in the sinful act (s).

D. The wife is to "**see that she _____ her husband.**" vs 33

1. To *revere* means to "*admire, to adore, to appreciate, to brag on, the exalt and to lift up.*"
2. The wife is to fulfill this to her husband as the saved are to **admire, adore, worship, exalt, appreciate our Savior and Lord.** While it is not the same, there are similarities.

II. The Husband Is To Picture Christ! Eph. 5:25-33 (Read, and reread)

One of the ways God reveals Himself is through His work in creation, This includes His creating man and woman in His image. Eve was taken out of Adam's side. In the same way the bride of Christ (the saved) owes her existence to the wounds Christ received in His body as His blood was shed on the cross.

God plans for the husband and wife relationship of **oneness** to be a illustration of the **oneness we have in Christ.** (Eph. 5:30-32) We are to work at preserving the abiding picture which our marriage is to picture or be an example of -- the **oneness** we have in Christ.

A. The husband is to manifest a sacrificial love -- vs. 25

1. We husbands are to _____ as Christ loved.
 - a. The command is "**husbands love your _____, EVEN AS _____ also loved the church, and _____ himself for it.**"
 - b. This is to be an unconditional love -- giving, serving love that is freely given by the husband in order to meet needs.
 - c. To do this the husband must put away his **selfish** _____, **pri** _____, **own int** _____, **and personal comfort.**

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- d. Our *attit*_____ will greatly *determine* how we treat our wives.
2. We must put away any _____ . (Col. 3:19; Heb. 12:14-15)
- a. We could never imagine Christ, in His love to the Church, ever neglecting, humiliating, brow-beating, or hurting the church in any way. *Are you sarcastic, irritable, impatient, or mean-spirited?*
- b. Why do men get bitter with their wives? _____
-

Husbands, consider:

1. Christ has a sacrificial, ministering love. vs. 25
2. Christ has a sacred purpose in His love, vs 26
3. Christ exhibited a selfless love, vs. 27-28
4. Christ manifested a nourishing love, vs. 29
5. Christ has a cherishing love for us, vs. 29

Do you exhibit this kind of love? Do you work at it? How?

Questions to ponder:

1. Christ *gave Himself* for the church. Are we willing to *give of ourselves* for our wives, families? _____ If so, how? _____
 2. Christ died for the Church. Are we willing to *die to self* so we can minister to the wife? _____ If so, how? _____
 3. What do you need to change? _____
-

B. The husband is to give sanctifying care to his wife! vss. 26-29

Christ has a purpose in His love. He desires to sanctify and cleanse the church (individuals) that He might present the church back to Himself without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing. He ministers to the church (to us personally) so that we might be holy and without blemish.

This should be the goal of the husband -- to present back to himself a glorious wife, but this is based on how he treats her and ministers to her. Some men go about it the wrong way -- by complaining, scolding, indifference, pressure, or by losing themselves in other things -- when all the time God has a wonderful plan for them so they can help build a fulfilling marriage.

1. The husband is to *sanctify* his wife. vs. 26 *"That he might _____ and _____ it with the _____ of the water by the word."*
 - a. The word, sanctify means to *"set ap_____"* his wife unto himself as a precious, honored *ve_____*. (See I Peter 3:7.)
 - b. She is to receive his _____, respect and _____. (vs. 25, I Pet. 3:7)
 - c. He is *"to dwell with her _____ to knowledge."* (I Pet. 3:7)
He is to know her special needs. And in this give her acceptance.
 - d. The husband is to do this by his godly example, prayer life, and his

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spiritual leadership.

2. The husband also is to **cleanse** his wife. vs. 26

- a. The word, sanctify also means to **make** _____.
- b. How can he bring about a cleansing process in her life?
*By his **studying** the Word of God, **teaching** the Word of God to his wife, and **living** the Word before his wife.*
- c. This will bring about a cleansing process as the Scriptures are lived and applied in both of their **I**_____.

3. The husband is also to **present** his wife. vs. 27

- a. He presents her back to himself a **glor**_____ wife by the way he treats her. (Like Christ's ministry to His church.)
- b. He helps her become a wife without _____ or _____ or any such thing. (Thus he seeks to build up his wife in every way.)

C. The husband is to love his wife AS he loves his own flesh! vss. 28-29

Every man cares for his body -- for he protects it, pampers it, feeds it, sleeps it, etc., and in like manner he is to care for his wife. No man hates his own body. Instead, he _____ and _____ it like Christ nourishes and cherishes the church. (vs. 29). In reality, a man hates himself when he hates his wife, is bitter, resentful, and/or negligent toward her.

1. "**For no _____ ever yet _____ his own flesh; but nourisheth, and cherisheth it, even as the _____ the church.**" vs. 29
2. "**.... he that loveth his _____ loveth _____.**" vs. 28

Give your wife much love and you will receive much love. **Withhold love and you make it difficult for her to give you much love.**

Walking In Obedience

Ephesians 6:1-9 • Lesson 12 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verses: *“Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.” OR “And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”* (Eph. 6:6, or 4)

Introduction:

In the last lesson, we saw how family life should be an enduring picture of some tremendous eternal spiritual truths. Probably, the foremost truth is the need of ***submissiveness*** in all our lives.

But it seems like no matter where we look in modern society, we see antagonism, division, rebellion, and strife. Husbands and wives are divorcing each other; children are rebelling against their parents, and employers and employees are seeking for new ways to avoid strikes and keep the machinery of industry running productively. We have tried education, legislation, and every other approach man can think of, but nothing seems to work. **Only God has the answer to man’s problems, and his basic one is the recognition of the need of submission to authority and that begins with God’s authority in our lives.** The answer begins with *regeneration, with salvation in Christ.*

In chapter six of Ephesians, we will note the importance of submissive living in the parent/child relationship and the master/servant or boss/employee relationship. Also, we will not be an overcomer against our foe, Satan, without constant submission to the directions given in chapter 6:10-18 as we will see in the final lesson of this series.

To begin with, **the husband is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the wife is a picture of the church.**

1. As such, in their respective roles, the husband and wife are to ***actively live*** a submissive life before their children.
2. Parents must ***model*** the divine principle of submission to God-given authority.
3. The father does this by his ***godly leadership*** as he fairly enforces God’s authority in the home, and
4. the wife does this by her ***submissiveness*** to the husband’s leadership.
5. These are principles that must be at work in all of our lives and this will require our ***obedience***.

I. Walking In Obedience in the home! Eph. 6:1-4 (Read many times!)

Today, people minimize the importance of every kind of authority. We live in a selfish, egotistical, “*me’ism age*” where the emphasis is upon having your *rights, doing your own thing*, and *protecting yourself* against anything that does not fulfill personal desires. God delights in obedience to His authority. First Samuel, chapter fifteen, gives a graphic story of what rejection of authority brings.

Questions to ponder:

1. How will children learn the basic principle of *submission to authority* without learning to quickly, willingly obey their parents? _____
-

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2. How will children learn to obey God if they have not learned to obey lesser authorities?
 3. What has God promised to those who do obey, honor, and respect their parents? Why is this so vital, and what are the opposite results? _____
-

A. Obedience to parental authority! vs. 1-3

1. "**Children _____ your parents in the _____: for this is _____.**" vs. 1 It is **right** for children to obey! Parents are required to train their _____ to obey. They won't do it naturally.

There are good reasons why children should obey their parents.

- a. They are to do it as "**in the _____.**" vs 1 They are Christians!
 - b. Because it is "**well _____ to the Lord.**" (Col. 3:20)
 - c. For "**this is _____**" vs. 1 It is always RIGHT!
 - d. Because this verse is a _____! And God expects us to obey all commands. (Read Exod. 20:12; Deut 5:16.)
 - e. Children must be taught to be lawful and not **law_____!** Children must be taught to obey, respect, and honor if they are to be spared hatred, bitterness, rebellion and violence.
 - f. Are you biblically directing your children? _____ If so, how? _____
 - g. Parents, what about your obedience to God as the example?
2. Obedience to God's command also will bring blessing! "**Honor thy father and _____ (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it might be _____ with _____, and thou mayest live _____ on the earth.**" vs. 2-3
 - a. Children are commanded to show _____ and _____ to their parents.
 - b. To "honor" means to place a high **val_____** upon someone! It means to highly regard parents and all God-given **auth_____!**
 - c. God has placed a **high value on parenthood.** (Read Matthew 15:4; Matt. 19:19; Mark 7:10; 10:19; Luke 18:20.)

To honor parents whom God has given us is to *honor God Himself*, who gave the parents, and to put ourselves under the umbrella of His protection and care. God has promised to bless, to give long life to those who give obedience, honor and respect to parents. This is not just for when we are young, but applies to all of life.

- d. Children who obey will escape a great deal of **s____, sorr____, dang____ and failures** that would bring a great amount of sorrow and loss.

B. Parents' personal control (dad's especially) of their lives. vs. 4

1. God commands parents (fathers) not to _____ their children. vs. 4
 - a. To **provoke** means to "negatively arouse, to cause children to become angry, bitter, frustrated and to give up."
 - b. In Colossians 3:21 we read, "**Fathers, _____ not your children to _____, lest they be _____.**"

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- c. It is true, if children are left to themselves they will be rebels, so they must be _____. (See Proverbs 22:6), but don't do it in anger.

Authority must be administered in a Christlike, loving manner. It is easy for the father to provoke when he is more concerned about his own self-interest, or he is responding in anger or to his own personal embarrassment.

C. Parents' (fathers) personal responsibility to children. vs. 4

1. The father (with the mother, see Prov. 1:8,9) is to nurture them. vs. 4

- a. **"but bring them up in the _____ ... of the Lord."**
b. Dads, we are to "_____ them up." This is something very specific, and demands our time, effort, prayers, wisdom, and Biblical understanding.
c. This phrase - bring them up - is the same word that is translated "nourish" in 5:29. We nourish by giving love and encouragement.
d. About the development of Jesus, as a boy, we read, **"And Jesus increased in _____ and _____ and in _____ with God and man."** (Luke 2:52) Here is balanced growth: intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social.
e. What is your plan in training your children? _____
f. Also the word, "nurture" carries with it the idea of learning through **disc**_____. (Read Prov. 13:24; Heb. 12:5-11; Prov. 23:13-15; 29:15.)

2. The father, along with mother, is to **bring them up in the _____ of the Lord.** vs. 4

- a. The word admonition means "instruction." If you read the first seven chapters of Proverbs you will find that Solomon wrote many times... **"my son, my son, my son..."** Following this was great instruction!
b. To fulfill this command, parents must have a time daily where they read, and instruct their children with the Word of God.
c. **"And these words, which I command thee this _____, shall be in _____: and thou shalt _____ them DILIGENTLY unto thy _____, and shalt _____ of them when thou sittest in thine _____, and when thou _____ by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou _____ up."**
(Deut 6:6-7)
d. How would you apply the above verses to your home? _____

II. Practicing Obedience To Those In Authority in General. 5:5-9

A. We are not to serve as men-pleasers. vs. 5-8

1. **"Servants, be _____ to them that are your masters...."** vs. 5
a. All who are under masters (bosses) are to serve **"with _____ and _____, in singleness of your _____, as unto Christ."** vs.5
b. Singleness means "with sincerity of the heart."
c. The word "servant" means literally "one who is in bondage." And the word "master" means "someone who is in the place of authority."

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- d. A worker, (servant) is to have a spirit of submission to _____.
2. Such service (as a worker) is to be carried out **“not with _____, as men _____; but as _____ of Christ, doing the will of God from the _____.”** vs. 6

Not as men-pleasers, or someone who watches to do the right thing for appearance sake. Neglecting duty when not being watched, but doing right when the boss is looking.

- a. Our real master is? _____ And He is watching all the time!
b. Service (labor, employment) is to be done as doing **“God’s will from the _____!”** We are to serve willingly, diligently, being productive.
3. Our work, labor is to be done **“with _____ will doing service, as to the _____, and not to men:”** vs. 7
- a. Irresponsibility is like a **dise_____** of major proportions today.
b. All our labors should be done as if we were doing them for _____, because we are serving Him.
c. How are you teaching your youth, children these important truths?

d. How are you giving them the example of serving the Lord as we have read in this verses? _____

e. Do your children see you finding ways to serve the Lord? _____ If so, how? _____
Do they see you reading your Bible daily? _____ If not, why not?

4. What does God promise in verse 8? (Put it in your own words.) _____

(Compare Eph. 6:8 with Heb. 11:6 and James 1:17.)

B. Those in authority have God’s clear directions. vs. 9

1. **“And, ye _____, do the _____ things unto them, forbearing _____: knowing that your Master also is in _____; neither is there _____ of person with Him.”** vs. 9
2. Doing the same thing refers back to the verse just prior to this, for they also are to serve as unto _____, doing the will of God from the heart, and not with eye-_____, but with singleness of heart.
3. In Paul’s day there were many slaves. Many masters, doubtless were cruel, hard-task masters, who made working for them very difficult. Slavery can be a very cruel thing.
4. Bosses are not important just because of their **posi_____!** God is far more concerned about their **cond_____!**
5. A good boss will conduct himself in a manner to please the Lord -- that is, in **attitude, actions, manner, and words he will please God.**

Standing For the RIGHT In His MIGHT!

Ephesians 6:10-24 • Lesson 13 • Discipleship Course # 2

Memory Verses: “*Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.*” and “*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*” Eph. 6:10,11

Introduction:

We must learn how to be ***steadfast*** in the midst of every kind of pressure, temptation, and testing. In this life, daily we will be faced with spiritual warfare. We can expect Satan to do all he can to defeat us, devour us, sift us, and engage us in an ongoing warfare.

As a seven-month old baby pulls itself up, trying gamely to learn to stand alone, so God’s people must learn to stand, and often we must stand alone. We must stand when there are tremendous pressures to conform, even when all the rest of the people around us are against us. There will be times when standing for the Lord and for right will cost us popularity, fame, or possibly even financial hardship.

There will be constant pressure to conform to the world and its value system, priorities, lifestyle, and interests. The Christian is often bombarded with the world’s advertisement of a lifestyle that is very contrary to what pleases God.

There are many pressures to conform to the “*belief system*” of the world.

We are commanded to ***stand***, and ***having done all, to stand***, therefore! This demands our dedication to the Lord and to His Word. We must ***stand on His powerful promises and in the position God has given us in Christ***. We must ***stand firm***, for this is the only way we can be under God’s authority, protection, and not under the world’s influence.

I. We Must Wrestle Against the World, Sin, and Satan! 6:10-12

As Christians, we face three enemies: the world, the flesh (sin nature) and the devil. (Eph. 2:1-3) The **world** refers to the system around us that is opposed to God, that caters to the “lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” (I John 2:15-17) Society apart from God is simply, but accurately, the world. The **flesh** is the old nature we inherited from Adam, a nature that opposes God and can do nothing spiritual to please God. By His death and resurrection, Christ overcame the **world** (John 16:33; Gal. 6:14) and the **flesh** (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:1-6), and the **devil** (Eph. 1:19-23). In other words, as believers, we do not fight **for** victory -- we fight **from** victory already won by Christ for us. The Spirit of God enables us, by faith, to appropriate Christ’s victory for ourselves.

A. We are in a warfare! vss. 10-11 (See I Corinthians 10:3-5; I Peter 5:8-9)

1. We are commanded “***be _____ in the Lord, and in the _____ of His might.***” vs. 10
 - a. We can be strong because “***...in all these things we are _____ than conquerors through _____ that _____ us.***” (Rom. 8:37)
 - b. We can say, “***Now thanks be unto _____, which always causeth us to _____ in Christ....***” (II Cor. 2:14)
 - c. Write out the promise in Philippians 4:13. _____
 - d. We can be strong because of our position in Christ. (Eph. 1:4-7)
 - e. We can be strong because of His promise in Ephesians 3:20.

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- f. What are you claiming for your *strength in the Lord*? _____
- g. Our strength comes from the **“power of His might”** which is ours by His grace. (See II Cor. 12:9-10.) **Do YOU trust HIS grace?**
2. We are commanded to **“Put on the _____ armour of _____, that ye (we) may be _____ to _____ against all the _____ of the devil.”**
This armour is provided by God, we must wear it! vs. 11
- a. Too often, by the use of his _____, Satan can move us to accept, embrace, and practice lies. He is behind all false doctrine, teachings!!
- b. **Wiles** means *“cunning, crafty arts, stratagems, devices.”* (II Cor. 2:11)
- c. We need the whole armour that we might stand against Satan’s _____, for *“Satan lies in wait to deceive.”* Satan uses many **false** human teachers who are masters of deceit who come as **angels of light**.

Note these truths about our enemy!

1. He is the **devil**, meaning **accuser** of the brethren. (Rev. 12:7-11)
2. He is **Satan**, meaning our **adversary**, an enemy of God. (Lk 22:31-32)
3. He is called the **tempter, murderer, and liar**. (Matt. 4:3; Jh 8:44)
4. He is compared with a **lion and a serpent**. (I Pet. 5:8; Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9)
5. He comes often as an **angel of light** to deceive. (II Cor. 11:13-15)
6. He is also called the **god of this world (age)**. (II Cor. 4:4)

B. We face a powerful, organized enemy. vs. 12

1. **“For we _____ not against _____ and _____, but against principalities, against _____, against the rulers of the darkness of this work, against spiritual _____ in high places.”**
- a. We understand this when we understand that a multitude of angels fell with Satan. (See Rev. 12:4; Daniel 10:13-20)
- b. They are his demons. c. Satan is highly organized.

Where did Satan come from, this spirit-creature that seeks to oppose God and defeat His work? Most Bible scholars believe that in the original creation, he was **“Lucifer, son of the morning,”** (Isa. 14:12-15) and that he was cast down because of his pride and his desire to occupy God’s throne. Many mysteries are connected with the origin of Satan, but what he is doing and where he is going are certainly no mystery. Since he is a created being, and not eternal (as God is) he is limited in knowledge and not all-powerful, or everywhere present. But Satan has many helpers... **“principalities, powers, rulers, spiritual wickedness in high places.”** There are many **spirit-forces of this dark world**. Our battle is not with people, but with the army of demonic angels who are struggling against God’s angels for control of the affairs of nations, and of the world. **A spiritual battle is going on in the world.**

2. We must **wrestle** or **do battle against our enemy**. (Read I Pet. 5:8-10)
- a. We do _____ have a battle with people, but with Satanic hosts.
- b. Satan (and his host) will seek to use our sinful nature, (the inner appetite for sin within us) and the world system around us to bring us to defeat.

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- c. How do all these facts apply to you? _____

- c. How do you answer Satan's temptations? _____

II. God Gives Us a Way To STAND In An Evil Day! 6:13-17

Having been warned to be fully armed (we will see more about this) we are told that our armor is necessary that we **“may be able to withstand in the evil day.”** If we are not armed, we will wear out, be defeated, and our strength will not support us against the toil of battle. (See Gal. 6:9.)

A. We must “with _____, ...having done all to _____, _____ therefore...” vs. 13

1. Satan is a thief who comes to **“steal, and to _____, and to _____.”** (John 10:10) He is wise, subtle, and very cunning.
2. We must **stand** against false **doct_____**, satanic deception about sin, temptations that he fosters, for we are in a hand-to-hand combat.
3. What are you claiming from God, that you might stand? _____

B. What is the means of victory? “Wherefore take unto _____ the whole _____ of _____, that ye may be _____ to withstand in the evil day.”

vs. 13 *God has provided us with an armor! It is complete! Glory!*

First they, and we, are to wear the *girdle of truth!* The girdle held the other parts of the armour together. Truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious Christ. A man of integrity, with a clear conscience, can face the enemy without fear. But once we embrace lies, we cannot use the Word of Truth, God's holy Bible!

1. We are to have our “_____ **girt about with _____.**” vs. 14
 - a. We are to *put on truth, embrace truth, and walk in truth.* (fill in blanks)
 - b. II Jh. 2 _____
 - c. II Jh. 4 _____
 - d. III Jh. 4 _____
 - e. Jh. 8:32 _____
 - f. Psa. 51:6a _____
 - g. Jh. 17:17 _____

Only as we hold on to **tru_____**, live by God's Word, think **tru_____**, and deal with lies, will we have victory, and be able to **stand**. **Surely from the verses above we see that truth is imperative!**

2. We have been given the **“breast_____ of _____.”** vs. 14
 - a. This was a piece of armor, made of metal plates or chains, covering the body from the neck to the waist, both front and back.
 - b. This gave protection for the vital organs, as our *righteousness in Christ* gives us vital protection by His grace.
 - c. It symbolizes the believer's righteousness we have **“in _____”** (II Cor. 5:21); this is a *positional righteousness* through His blood.

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- d. And then it pictures our **righte**_____ **life we are to live in Christ.** (Eph. 4:24) This is **practical righteousness** in the daily life.
- This means **right living**, doing right, **right acting!**
 - **Nothing injures the Christian in battle so much as a violated conscience, a moral weakness, doing wrong against convictions.**

The life we live either fortifies us against Satan's attacks, or makes it easier for him to defeat us. (II Cor. 6:1-10). We are assured of salvation, but it is our walk, our life for Christ that is at stake. (Read I John 1:5-2:2; Titus 2:11-14; II Pet. 1:3-12))

- e. What are you doing about living a daily righteous life? _____

- f. Why is our position of righteousness so important? _____

3. "**And your _____ shod with the preparation of the _____ of peace.**" vs. 15 The Roman soldier wore sandals with hobnails in the soles to give him better footing in the battle. If we are going to "**stand and withstand**" then we need the shoes of the Gospel. Shoes speak of daily preparation, to give out the gospel.

- a. Here shoes speak of *offensive warfare*; much of our victory comes from **active** service. *We are far more apt to defeat Satan when we are seeking to win souls for the Lord; we will want to keep our lives clean!*
- b. A victorious Christian is a **witnessing Christian!**
- c. Read Isaiah 52:7 and Romans 10:15, and write about what you found.

- d. What do we have from the **gospel** as found in Romans 5:1? _____

4. "**Above _____, taking the _____ of faith, wherewith ye shall be _____ to quench ALL the _____ darts of the wicked.**" vs. 16

The shield was large, usually about 4 ft. by 2 ft., made of wood and then covered with tough leather. It protected the soldier from spears, arrows, the *fiery darts* of the enemy as he held it before him. The edges of these shields were so constructed that an entire line of soldiers could interlock shields and march into the enemy like a solid wall. **This also suggests that we are not in the spiritual battle alone.**

- a. **Fai**_____ mentioned here is not saving faith, but rather **living faith**, a trust in the promises and power of God. What do you see in Colossians 2:6? _____
- b. I Pet. 5:9a _____
- c. Faith is a **defensive** weapon (knowing and embracing the doctrines about our position in Christ, etc.) which protects us from Satan's fiery darts. (See Heb. 11:6.) **We must claim victory by faith!**

In Paul's day, arrows were often dipped in some inflammable substance, and ignited, then shot at the enemy. **Satan shoots his fiery darts at our hearts and minds:** *lies, blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts about others, doubts, and burning desires for sin.* If we do not quench these darts, they will light a fire within and we will disobey God, fall into wickedness, and experience the horrible results.

5. "**And take the _____ of salvation....**" vs. 17

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- a. I think above all else, Satan attacks the **mind**; that is the way he defeated Eve. (Gen. 3; II Cor 11:1-3) **Consider Psalm 1:1-3!**
- b. The helmet refers to the mind **contr**_____ **by G**_____. When God, through His **W**_____, controls the mind, then Satan cannot lead the believer astray.
- c. We need to be **"taught by _____ as the _____ is in Jesus.** (4:21)
- d. We are to **"grow in _____ and in the _____ of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."** (II Peter 3:18)
- e. Are you memorizing the Word of God so you can stand? _____ If not, why not? _____
Is God pleased with your answer? _____, If not, why not? _____
-
6. **"take..... the sword of the _____, which is the _____ of _____."** vs. 17 Here is the last piece of the armor given by God, for us to use! The Roman soldier wore on his girdle a short sword which was used for close-in fighting. *The Word of God is this to us in times of battle!*
- a. Hebrews 4:12 compares the Word of God to a sword, WHY?
• because it is _____, • it is able to _____ the inner man like the soldiers' sword pierced.
• It can **"cut to the _____."** (Acts 2:37; 5:33)
- b. Moses tried to conquer with a physical _____, (Exod. 2:11-15) only to discover that God's Word alone was more than enough to defeat Egypt. In that contest...it was God's Word Moses spoke to the Pharaoh. A physical sword wounds to kill, but the Word of the Spirit wounds to heal and bring life. The Spirit, who lead men to give us the Word of God, wields the Word as we take it by faith and use it.
- c. What did Christ use to answer Satan's temptation? (Read Luke 4:1-13) Three times Christ said, **"It _____."** and **"Man shall not _____ by _____ alone, but by every _____ that proceedeth out of the _____ of God."** (See Matthew 4:4.)
- d. Are you using the Word of God to answer temptations that come? _____ What have you experienced? _____
-
- e. Since Christ, who had no sin, was tempted and answered with the Scriptures, then *how important is memorization and meditation on the Word of God to you?* _____
What will you do about this? _____
-
- f. What did Paul tell the Roman believers to do with the armor?
• Rom. 13:11 _____ • Rom. 13:12 -- cast off sin and **"put on the _____ of _____."**
• We do this by **"putting on the _____ Jesus Christ."** (Rom. 13:14)

We can only be kept from retreating, failing, and sinning as we apply the Word of God. So many Christians do not know the Word of God, nor do they practice it and they are therefore unable to use it against the enemy.

We are never out of reach of Satan's devices, so we must never be without the whole armor of God!

III. The Christian Must Watch and Pray as He Becomes an Overcomer! 6:18-24 (Read, reread the text many times.)

Watchfulness, vigilance, and prayerfulness are extremely important in our daily battle. Our self-dependence, neglect, and carelessness will make us vulnerable to attacks. Christ is our example as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. **He taught the apostles to watch and pray!** (See Mark 14:32-38; Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-7)

A. "Praying _____." vs. 18 "Praying without _____."
(I Thess. 5:17)

1. Prayer is our greatest need; our great source of **stren_____**, and our **power** comes through prayer.
2. Praying always because we are always subject to temptations and attacks.

B. "and with all _____ and _____." vs. 18

1. God teaches us to pray with all prayer... supplication... intercession, and giving of _____. (Phil. 4:6; I Tim. 2:1)
2. *PRAISE changes things as much as _____ changes things!*

C. "..... in the _____, and watching thereunto with all _____ and supplication for _____." vs. 18

1. We are to look to the Holy Spirit to *direct, enable, energize in prayer.*
2. We are to pray for all saints... intercede for one another!

D. Paul was burdened about his ministry, "that I may _____ my mouth boldly, to _____ known the mystery of the gospel." vs. 19

1. He needed prayer support as our missionaries do today.
2. He was concerned that "**utterance may be _____ to me...**" vs. 19
3. Paul wanted to see many come to Christ. His example of overcoming power was a great challenge, testimony, and encouragement to the saints in that day.
4. How does all this apply to your life? _____

E. Paul gave the saints at Ephesus much encouragement! vss. 20-24

1. He encouraged them by his desire to "**speak _____, as I ought to speak.**" vs. 20
2. He was willing to be "**an _____ in bonds.**" vs. 20
Paul's boldness while in prison must have been a great encouragement to them.
3. He sent _____ to them to tell them of his affairs, (needs, concerns) and that he would also _____ their _____. vss. 21-22

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4. He closed his epistle (letter to them) with "**Peace be to the _____, and _____ with _____, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**" vs. 23
AND "**Grace be with all _____ that _____ our Lord Jesus Christ _____.**" **AMEN!** vs. 24

- a. In Christ we are **rich..** we are "*seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*"
- b. **ALL that we will ever need is in HIM.**

Questions to Ponder:

1. In what way are you practicing living *victoriously in Christ Jesus*? _____

2. How could you make Ephesians 6:10 a reality in your life every day? _____

3. As you meditate about the armor, what parts are lacking in your life, or need improving by application to daily life -- in its stresses, demands, burdens, decisions, etc. _____

4. How could you improve your burden for the lost around you? _____

