

A
Study of
The
Letter Of
Paul
To the
Ephesians
About
Being
In
Christ

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The Book of Ephesians

Introduction

This letter is one of four that Paul wrote from a prison cell in Rome; the other three are Galatians, Colossians and Philippians. Paul had labored some three years establishing this church in the face of much opposition. This was a large city of about 350,000 inhabitants. One of its most famous features was the temple to Diana the goddess of fertility and her vestal virgins (prostitutes).

This letter or epistle was rather general in the sense that it was not sent to a specific church or person. However Paul uses this letter to magnify the church as a divine institution, and headed up by Christ. Christ as the only means of salvation is also emphasized and that a well rounded life comes from salvation by grace.

The theme of this great book is that of the church “in the heavenlies” it has been called the Alps of the New Testament. The key word in this letter is the little word “in” as it occurs 90 times in the six chapters. In chapter one the church is the body and Christ the head. In chapter two the church is the building and Christ the chief cornerstone and the church is the bride of whom Christ is the bridegroom.

Chapter 1

Greeting: The call of God

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

- Call, God's will. There was the call to Paul in 1A. Paul was greatly privileged. There is no greater privilege than serving Jesus. Apostles: an Apostle is one sent forth on a special mission. Paul was a messenger of the great message of the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Thought: Christ needs messengers - John.15:16, Acts 26:16.

Paul was possessed by Jesus Christ. He had surrendered his life completely to Christ. All he had and was, he turned over to Christ; compare the following passages Mt. 16:24, Luke. 14:33, I Cor. 6:19-20. Paul was called by the will of God. He was a minister because God had called him to be a minister.

How many of us can say that what we are doing is God's will?

1:1B - God's call to the Church - Paul is covering the scope of God's call to a church and its believers. God calls believers to be saints and faithful. Saint refers not to a few, but to all. It means set apart, consecrated, sacred, and holy. Believers are saints because they have been given a new heart by God. They are also set apart to live holy lives in this world. Faithful is a person who has placed his faith in Jesus.

Thought: Every person should make sure they are counted by God as saints - John. 3:36.

1:2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

God calls believers to grace and peace. Grace is all the favors and gifts of God. The favor showered on men who did not deserve it. No other word expresses the depth and richness of the heart and mind of God. God's grace is not earned - Eph. 2:8-9. It is the free gift of God - Rom. 3:24. It is the only way man can be saved - II Cor. 8:9.

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

God's blessings are spiritual and heavenly, not material. Spiritual blessings are of the Spirit. Spiritual blessings are the opposite of tempered blessing. They are of the inner man. Spiritual blessings are vastly superior to material blessings. They are permanent and perfect and eternal. Spiritual blessings are found only in Christ. God dealt with man in material blessings first because he had to learn several things:

- (1) An earthly inheritance does not last.
- (2) An earthly inheritance cannot bring peace and security.
- (3) Man has in him a basic desire of greed and selfishness.
- (4) Man must undergo a basic change of character.

1:4: 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:

The first blessing - God has chosen us to be blameless. God has determined that some will live with him. Holy - to be set apart - II Cor. 7:1. Blameless means; to be free from sin, above reproach, without fault. The great blessing of God is perfection in Christ.

1:5-6: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

The second blessing - God has adopted us as children. It was foreordained so. It was the pleasure of God to adopt us. This is most striking when we consider how depraved we are. It does not mean some are going to heaven and others forced to go to hell - Rom. 10:13, I Tim. 2:3-4. Predestine - to destine or appoint before. Adoption - to place as a son - Gal. 4:5-6. Adoption is by Jesus Christ and him alone. God's purpose in adoption is that we might live forever to the praise of his glory.

1:7: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

The third blessing - God has redeemed us and forgives our sins. Redemption is one of the great Bible words. It conveys the idea of delivering or setting free by paying a ransom.

Three ways: (1) Man has been captured by several forces. The force of sin - man is sold under sin - Rom. 3:23. The force of death - everything wastes away - I Cor. 15:42. The force of Satan - all are under the power of Satan. (2) Three key ideas are included in redemption. Man needs to be liberated. Man is unable to free himself. God redeems by the blood of Jesus Christ. (3) God redeems because of the riches of his grace. He loves man with an unbelievable love - I Pet. 1:18-19.

Forgiveness means - to send off, to let go. Sin, transgress, a falling by the way. All men stand guilty of having broken the law of God. However the blood of Jesus brings forgiveness.

1:8: Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

The fourth blessing - God has given us wisdom and understanding both coming through Jesus Christ. The word wisdom means seeing and knowing the truth. It is seeing and knowing what to do. It is promised only to those who seek him with all their heart - Rom. 11:33, I Cor. 1:30, I Cor. 2:9-16. Know how to use and do the truth. It is seeing the direction to take. It is understanding, insight. It is down to earth practical understanding of things - Col. 1:9, II Tim. 2:7, I Jn. 5:20, Prov. 8:14.

1:9-10: Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

The mystery of God's will. The fifth blessing of being in the body is that God has revealed his will for us to us. Thy mystery can be summed up in this. God is going to gather together and unify all things both visible and invisible under the authority of Jesus Christ. Paul has several things in these 2 verses:

1. God has an eternal purpose and plan for the world. He joys and rejoices to bring it about.
2. He has used different methods of dealing with man (dispensation):
 - a. Dispensation of innocence - creation to fall - Gen. 1:26-3:6
 - b. Dispensation of conscience - fall to flood - Gen. 3:7-6:7
 - c. Dispensation of civil government - flood to Babel - Gen. 6:8-11:9
 - d. Dispensation of promise - Babel to Sinai - Gen. 11:10-Ex. 18:27
 - e. Dispensation of law - Sinai to Pentecost - Ex. 18:28-Acts 1:26
 - f. Dispensation of grace - Pentecost to Millennium - Acts 2:1-Rev. 20:3
 - g. Dispensation of lamb - the Millennium 1,000 yrs - Rev. 20:4-15
 - h. Dispensation of new beginnings - eternity - Rev. 21:1-22:21

3. There is terrible division throughout the universe. "To gather all things in Heaven and Earth" God has been working since the fall to restore the harmony of His universe.
4. There is to be a consummation to history "fullness of time" a new order, the 7th dispensation at that time Jesus will place or arrange all things in perfect order - Ph. 2:9-11.
5. Jesus Christ is Gods' head over this new creation. He is head of the church, the body - Col. 2:19.
6. The church is to be the Lord's instrument of reconciliation and peace to the world.
7. All division and disorder is to be condemned.
8. The church is to practice reconciliation upon the earth. "In this church" all laws, barriers and divisions are to be done away with. We are to be an embryo of heaven and earth - II Cor. 5:19-21.

1:11-13: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

The sixth blessing: God has given us an inheritance; He made us His heritage of God Himself.

1. The inheritance was predestined, foreordained (pre-decided). God works all things out after the counsel of His own will. Only God knows what is best. Nothing can be better than to be given the greatest inheritance possible.
2. The inheritance is clearly stated, "that we should be" we should exist eternally. He has given us an eternal existence. He has made us his own possession. We have been given the privilege of being His for eternity - Mal. 3:17; II Cor. 4:7, I Pet. 2:9.
3. The reason He makes us His heritage. "That we would be the praise of His glory" this means that we will live forever as the demonstration of His glory. He took totally depraved sinners and saved them, will bring praise upon praise to His name - Heb. 13:14-15, Rev. 5:11-12.
4. How do we become a part of this inheritance we need only look at verse 13? By hearing the word of God as seen in Rom.10:17; "Faith cometh by hearing" also I Pet.1:23. By believing and trusting in Jesus Christ - Jn. 5:24, Rom. 10:9-10.

1:13-14: In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye

believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The Holy Spirit our guarantee - The 7th blessing. God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit, earnest pledge, guarantee, and down payment. Holy Spirit given to give perfect assurance of his salvation - Rom. 8:16, II Cor. 1:22, Gal. 4:6). Why? That His glory might be praised eternally by us.

1:15-16: Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

The Church's testimony - this church had a strong testimony, one so strong it was being testified of around the world. It was built on the 2 essentials to having a good testimony - faith and love. Paul had heard of their faith in God's love and their loyalty to Jesus in carrying the message (the Gospel) everywhere. He also heard about their love of the saints. They were ministering to the saints, demonstrating God's love great love for people. A person has to grow or else he will slip backwards, one can never sit still. Paul prayed daily for them thanking God for their labor and praying for them to continue to grow in these blessings just mentioned.

1:17-18: That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Paul discusses the knowledge and wisdom of God. Believers need (must) grow in the knowledge of God, not just facts. The God we are to know is the one Jesus worshipped while here. He is the only true and living God, Sovereign of the universe, Supreme intelligence, power, presence. This is the God we are to know. Three things are essential if believers are to grow they are so important Paul prayed daily for God to give them.

1. To grow, a believer must have the spirit of wisdom. What the believer's needs from God is a spirit that reaches out and grasps after wisdom, that hungers and thirsts after wisdom, that seeks and seeks after wisdom. Wisdom can be defined by the words "what" and "how". Knowing what something is, what is behind

something, what can be done. It is knowing how to use or relate to something spiritual wisdom is knowing who God is and how to relate to him, knowing the truth and how to use it, knowing what to do and how to do it, knowing how to live more and more fruitful lives, for the glory of God and for the welfare of men. Wisdom differs from knowledge. Knowledge is grasping facts, but that's not enough, a person must be able to use the facts. If the believer is to grow in the knowledge of God, he must seek the wisdom of God more than anything else. It is the person who hungers and thirsts after God and his righteousness that is filled - Col. 2:3, I Tim. 3:15, James 1:5, 3:17.

2. To grow in the knowledge of God a believer must have the Spirit of revelation. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals God to the believer - I Cor. 2:9-12. The believer is indwelt by the Spirit - Jn. 14:16-26, I Cor. 6:19-20. He dwells in us to teach us the deep things of God. A spirit that drives after God, a spirit that seeks to know God, a spirit that hungers and thirsts after God above all us. Revelation - manifest, unveil, uncover, open, reveal. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal the meaning of all truth. I Cor. 1:9-16 contrast the world's wisdom with God's wisdom. A spiritual Christian can by the Holy Spirit see behind world events and day to day experiences. The richness and deep things of God must be opened up. They will not just be handed over, you must seek more and more of God. You must want truth revealed to you. Lehman Strauss "humanity says, know thyself, Jesus said to know God" - Jn. 17:3. To know yourself is important, however the greatest thing in the entire world is to know God personally.
3. A believer must have the "eyes of his heart enlightened." The heart must be opened so that the light of God can be seen and grasped. The believer must open his heart and focus its affection, intelligence and will upon knowing God - II Cor. 4:6, Ps. 18:28, Ps. 119:130.

The knowledge of God and it's the results. A believer comes to know the hope of God's calling. The 7 spiritual blessings are found in 4-10. A believer comes to know God's inheritance. We find we are the glorious possessions of God. We come to know the enormous power of God.

1:19-23: And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far

above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

The power of God demonstrated. Power of God - a believer when he comes to really know God, he discovers the power. It is exceeding - unlimited, beyond imagination. It is great mighty, explosive, atomic. God's power is toward us, he extends it, makes it available to every believer. What he did for Christ he will do for us; this is demonstrated in Jesus' resurrection read Rom. 1:4. By raising Jesus, God showed us his power to do 3 things: God has the power to conquer all trials and temptation of life, death is the greatest trial that faces man - I Cor. 10:13; God has the power to give man a new life and the power to live it before him - Rom. 6:4; God has the power to raise men from the dead, believers will experience the resurrection power - Jn. 5:28, 29, I Th. 4:16-18. Jesus exalted - Jesus is now seated above all. All things are placed in subjection under him - Ph. 2:9-10, Heb. 1:9. God gave Jesus the power and authority to rule and reign over all. He also has the power to exalt us to rule with him - Lk. 19:17, Mt. 25:23. Jesus is the Head of the Church - Jesus paid the price to build the church. The church is the body of Christ. This is one of the mass descriptive pictures the human body, Christ is the head. A head needs a body to carry out its plans. If God had the power to create the church and make Christ the head, then he has the power to make the body function and work for Christ - Rom. 12:5. The church completes all for Christ - the church is the instrument of God for bringing his will about.

Chapter 2

Life of the Believer

The believer's life before conversion (1-3). What was your life before you were saved? How did God see you? Paul will show all of us this and more in this chapter

2:1: And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

Before salvation a man lives a life of death "you were dead." What does it mean death - it doesn't mean extinction. Man - existence. It is

separation; being separated from your body or from God or both. Man was created for a purpose to fellowship, worship and serve God. Unregenerate man has never fulfilled this. There are 3 deaths in scripture. (1) physical - separation of spirit from body. (2) Spiritual - separation of man from God while still alive physically (I Tim. 5:6). A person who wastes their life in riotous living is dead. A person who does not partake of Christ is spiritually dead. (3) Eternal death - separation of man from God's presence forever dead to God.

2:2: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Sin, trespassers, worldliness these words describe one's life before salvation. A person's life before salvation is a life of trespasses and sin. This separates man from God. Trespasses - to fall, slip, deviate, and wander away, falls from the right way, slips from doing what he should. Sins - miss the mark, come short of the glory. Man does not measure up to God. Man is not on the same level as God. Man doesn't reach up to God. Man misses the mark of life. No husband or wife is free from selfishness and disturbance all the time. No mother or father trusts their child as he always should. No child perfectly obeys his parents all the time. No workman is always diligent. No neighbor is as good and kind as he should. No person disciplines his body as he should, man is not perfect (Rom. 3:23). The man who sins is walking after 3 things: (1) the direction of the world - opinions, morality, and popularity. (2) The power of Satan - his power is second to God's. (3) Walks in disobedience - they refuse to obey God - Mt. 7:26-27.

2:3: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

lusts - those outside Christ are controlled by these fleshy desires. Illicit sex, overeating, intoxication, laziness, pornography, immoral thoughts, anger, unbelief, idolatry, envy, false beliefs. The uncommitted live to fulfill the desires of flesh and mind - Rom. 1:26-27, James 4:1-4. Wrath - man is under the wrath of God because he acts against God, rejects God, ignores God, denies God, serves religion, honors personal ideas. What a man measures to God, shall be measured to him - Rom. 1:18.

2:4-7: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. The most astounding interruption in human history is the word "but."

1. quickened - 4-5. The word "quickened" means to be made alive. We were dead but God has made us alive. God is full of mercy. Mercy - feelings of pity, compassion. Two things are needed to show mercy, seeing a need and being able to meet that need. God withheld our judgment because he saw our need. God provided a way of salvation. God is full of love, selfless and sacrificial. It is a love that loves a person even if he doesn't deserve it. That is it loves the one who is utterly unworthy. That it is compelled to sacrifice itself for its enemies - Rom. 5:8-10. When did God quicken and make us alive to Him? While we were dead in sins. How did God quicken us? By His making us alive together in Christ.
2. God has raised us up - vs. 6 - the work of God's mercy is to raise us up with Christ. He raised Christ for 3 reasons: (1) He lived a sinless, perfect life, He secured a perfect righteousness. (2) Jesus died for man. When God willed Christ to bear our penalty He sacrificed himself. (3) Jesus was raised up from the dead. His resurrection stands for any who truly trusts Him. Gen. 15:6, Rom. 4:24-25, Ph. 3:9.
3. God has made us sit - v. 5-6. The work of mercy is to sit us in Heaven. We are in Christ and Christ is seated in heaven. Therefore those who believe are in the heavenly realm of experience. We belong to two worlds. Our salvation, our resurrection and exaltation is an accomplished feat. In the word "together" we have profound truth. God's power raised Christ. We were raised with Him and are urged to seek those things which are above - Col. 2:12, 3:1-3. What God has done for us, though we can't physically see it, has nonetheless been accomplished - Rom. 8:11-18.
4. Mercy has one great purpose; to show the riches of his grace toward us in Christ Jesus. It will take all of eternity. God will be eternally glorified. All creatures will live in stark amazement at God's great mercy toward us - Mt. 13:43.

B. The work of God's grace - salvation - vs. 8-10. This passage is one of the greatest evangelistic summaries in the Bible. If a person wants to be saved these 3 verses tell them how. Salvation is a free gift given by God through grace. Salvation is received by faith - Rom. 3:27, 4:2-5.

2:8-9: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

These two verses make it very clear and unmistakable that everyone is saved by God and Him alone plus absolutely nothing.

1. You are saved by His grace. God has given his grace to men despite their cursing him, rejecting him, rebelling against him, despite their hostility toward him, denial of him, despite their idolatry, their trespasses, and their sins. Grace is giving but it is giving to people who don't deserve the gift of Jesus Christ. God is not off someplace in the distance, far removed, disinterested and unconcerned with man's sufferings. God reached out to help. How? He gave his only son to die for us. Rom. 5:6-8. Notice there where it says "without strength" that is ungodly sinners, enemies of God. This is where the grace of God comes in - II Cor. 8:9.
2. You are saved through faith; now what does that mean? It means this: Jesus Christ died for us. When we believed, really believe, that Christ died for us; God takes our faith and counts it as his death for us. His salvation is a gift to us. But a gift is not a gift until it is received by you. You can always say "no thank you." I do not believe you, I don't want it, I deny its existence; I don't have the time to use it.
3. You are not saved of yourselves. God is perfect, man is not perfect, we can't live in his presence on our own. We must have help - Obadiah 3,4.
4. You are saved as a gift, not of works. Seven reasons why salvation must be a "free gift" - (1) man can't work enough for God to owe him - Rom. 4:4. (2) Man can't bring perfection to God - Eph. 1:7. (3) Man can't make God forgive him - Rom. 3:23. (4) Man can't hear God's heart - Rom. 5:6-10. (5) Man can't save himself - Eph. 2:8-9. (6) Man can't make God love him - Titus 3:4-7. (7) Man can't set himself free - Mt. 26:28.
5. The reason salvation is by grace not works is to keep man from boasting.

How small we are and how glorious God is! Rom. 3:19-27.

2:10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God

hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We are God's workmanship or His poem to himself. God creates us in Christ. What does this mean? It means God makes the spirit alive - 2:5. It means God causes us to be born again spiritually. It means God places his nature into us - II Peter 1:24. It means God creates, renews, each of us. We are created to do good works. He saves us so that we can do good works. God has set us apart "ordained" us to live a life of good works. We are not perfect, we fail (Cain) but we keep coming back to God asking forgiveness and going back to doing good works. Mt. 5:16, Col. 1:10, I Tim. 6:18, Tit. 2:7, 3:8.

Remember what life is: Reconciliation and Peace - v. 11-18. The State of man - separated from God 11-12. We were once far off from God. "You" are Gentiles. Six things kept us from God. (1) We were barricaded by the Jews. They were chosen to show the world God. They did not. They chose the name Jew. They chose to be identified by circumcision. We were barricaded by religion. (2) We were "without Christ" we never knew of nor looked for Messiah. WE had no hope of the coming Saviour. (3) We were aliens from Israel. We were not a part of the kingdom God was building. (4) We were unaware of God's covenants and promise. God didn't give his covenant to Gentiles first, but to the Jews. (5) We had "no hope." We lived in all the fear and anxiety of life; we had no hope beyond this world. (6) We were "without God" we stood alone in this world. We had "gods many, and lords many" (I Cor. 8:5) but we were separated from the only living true God (Mt. 15:8).

2:13: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Christ brings us near to God. The words "but now" are a forceful contrast. There was a time when Christ was not here. But now he has come to bring all who will to God in a new right relationship. How? "By the Blood" that's why it was necessary for Christ to die?

1. Man was estranged from God. His rebellion, rejection evil and injustice were insurmountable. The only answer was for God's love to compel Him to forgive man, the only way to satisfy God's justice demanded death. What could God do, the only thing possible. Send his perfect, righteous son in man's place - II Cor. 5:21, I Pet. 1:18-19.
2. God wanted to show his great love for mankind - Jn. 15:13. We were not his friends however, we were his enemies. Yet he still took our place - Rom. 5:6-10.

2:14-15: For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Christ brings us peace. Christ bring us peace when we realize that he died for us. Christ brings a deeper sense of peace when we realize that he gives daily power to overcome. Christ brings a still deeper sense of peace when we realize that he has brought perfect love and unity to us. Christ is man's peace by bringing men together as one. There are four ways Christ brings us together:

1. All men now approach God on the same basis - the blood of Jesus Christ - Jn. 14:27, Rom. 5:1, Col. 1:20. All men who come to Christ for salvation receive a common love, purpose and work. First there is a common love. Christ leads men to love everyone. Second common purpose and work - living righteously and bearing testimony of the gospel - Rom. 12:5.
2. Christ brings peace by breaking down all barriers. Paul uses a picture of the temple, how the various courts kept some from God's presence. Outer court of Gentiles, court of the women, court of the Israelites, whole congregation gathered court of priests, inside temple proper; then the Holy place and the Holy of Holies. Men build barriers against others - race, religion, wealth, dress, appearance. Christ has done away with all.
3. Christ brings peace by wiping out the enmity of the law. The law only continued to show man's guilt and condemnation. Christ fulfilled the law and provided the appropriate - Mt. 5:17, Rom. 8:3, Gal. 3:13, 4:4-5.
4. Christ brings peace by creating a "new man" - Col. 1:27. Individually when a man turns to Christ he recreates the man all over again. Corporately in Jesus all men become one new body, one new family.

2:16-17: And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Christ brings us reconciliation. The word 'reconcile' means to change thoroughly, to change from enmity to friendship. Five things about reconciliation:

1. The thing that broke the relationship was sin - Rom. 5:6-10. Man in his natural state is an antagonist of God.

2. The way men are reconciled to God is by the death of his son. God accepts the death of Christ for the death of a man. Therefore the man is freed from his sins and the punishment deserved.
3. God is the one who reconciles, not men.
4. All men can be reconciled to one another, if they look up to God through the Lord Jesus - I Jn. 1:3-4, 2:1-2.
5. Men learn about reconciliation by the preaching of Jesus - II Cor. 5

2:18: For through him we both have access by
one Spirit unto the Father.

Christ brings us access to God. The word "access" means to bring to, to introduce, and to present. The idea is that of being in a royal court and being brought before the King. Jesus is the one who opens the door. The Holy Spirit being us into God's presence; The Holy Spirit is the nature of God within us that gives access. The Holy Spirit works in us and stirs us to move into God's presence. The Holy Spirit is the constant companion with us, teaching us to live in God's presence. The Holy Spirit is the one within us who bears witness of our being the children of God - Jn. 10:9.

2:19-20: Now therefore ye are no more
strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens
with the saints, and of the household of God;
And are built upon the foundation of the
apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself
being the chief corner stone;

Pictures of the church; we have in these next four verses an excellent description of the church.

v. 19a - picture one - a new nation. The church is pictured as a new nation or society. WE were strangers and foreigners. Stranger means outsider, foreigner means an alien or immigrant. There was a time when we were a stranger, foreigner to God. The glorious news we are now fellow citizens. We have a homeland. The "saints" means those who are set apart or separated to God. Saints: a people set apart. Fellow citizens - a people being built into a new nation under God - Ph. 3:20, Heb. 11:9-16.

v. 19b - second picture - as the family of God. Jesus has brought us into the family of God. We have two privileges. 1. Privilege of adoption - we have been brought into the family, the household of God. All that can be experienced in this family are ours - Rom. 8:15-17. 2. The privilege of responsibility and service - every person has duties to perform, some service to render to and for the family - Mt. 12:50, 20:28, Rom. 12:10-11, Gal. 5:13.

v. 20 - the third picture - the church as God's building. We are the building stones God is using to construct his building.

Jesus is the chief cornerstone. This tells us 3 things.

- (a) The cornerstone is the first laid, it is the perimeter stone in time. Christ is the captain of our salvation - Heb. 2:10; Christ is the author of eternal salvation and our faith - Heb. 5:9; Christ is the beginning and the end - Rev. 1:8; Christ is the forerunner into the very presence of God - Heb. 6:19-20.
- (b) The corner stone is the supportive stone, preeminent in position and power. Christ is the only true foundation upon which man can build - I Cor. 3:1; Christ is the basis for which all others fit together.
- (c) The cornerstone is the directional stone. It is used to line up the whole building. He is the one who gave and gives instruction and direction - I Pet. 2:6-8. If Jesus is removed as the cornerstone the whole of Christian church will collapse. He and he alone must be preached, taught and lived - Mt. 7:24-27, II Tim. 2:19.

We are built upon the foundation laid down by the apostles and prophets - Rom. 10:8-10, I Th. 2:13.

2:21: In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

The fourth picture is that of a growing organism. "Grows" is a biological word for that which is alive. The union of various parts of a living being, a dynamic body - I Pet. 2:4-5. The church has 2 challenges: the church must grow, it must bring new stones. Every believer is a part of the building and expected to fulfill its function within the building.

v. 21b - the fifth picture is that of a worldwide temple, the universal church - "all" believers make up the Holy Temple of God. Each person is placed into the structure only by Christ. The gospel of Jesus Christ is open to all people everywhere. There is no place for division, prejudice, privilege, partiality, classes, or caste system.

2:22: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The sixth picture - the church as local temple. The local church "you" referring to the church at Ephesus in particular. Each local church is a building structured for God's presence. Each member is seen as an integral and essential stone being placed and fitted into the building - I Pet. 2:5. The Church's stability lies in each stone holding up its load, fulfilling its purpose in the structure. The local church exists for the purpose of providing a home for the presence of God. The Spirit of God

dwells within the church to conform the church to the image of God's will. The effectiveness of the local church depends on how much it allows the Holy Spirit to dwell and control its members - Jn. 14:17, I Cor. 3:16, I Cor. 6:19.

Chapter 3

III. The eternal purpose of God for the Christian believer - 3:1-21.

A. A new body of people. The great mystery of Christ - 1:13. This chapter is a new division in the book. It is the eternal purpose of God for us. First it is to make a new body of people, who will love Him. This is the "mystery of Christ" 1-13. To make the believer into a mature person filled with the fullness of God - 14-21.

3:1-2: For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Give a glimpse into the purpose of Paul's existence. He existed to serve Christ, no matter the cost. He was a prisoner of Christ, literally in Rome. He was enslaved to Christ to the point he would bear any suffering to share the glorious gospel. He existed to be a steward of God. Paul was given the duty to oversee and administer the grace of God to the world. What an enormous responsibility lain upon ministers. Every minister of God is a slave of Jesus. He or she is to serve Christ no matter the cost, even to jail - Jn. 13:14. Every minister of God is a steward of God's grace - I Cor. 4:1, 2; Col. 1:25.

3:3-5: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

The mystery required a special revelation to become known. It is the mystery of Christ - vs. 4. A "Mystery" is defined in these verses. It was a truth that God had to reveal to men. Vs. 5 - look also at vs. 9. This simply means that the mystery of Christ was (1) a truth that was not known before the apostles and prophets, (2) a truth that could not be discovered by human reason, (3) a truth that had to be revealed by God if it was to be known - Jn. 3:13.

3:6: That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

This mystery is a threefold revelation. (1) We, the Gentiles, are fellow heirs of God with the Jews. Before Christ the only way to God was the law. The Jews who truly believed the promise were the heirs of God. Since Christ, Gentile believers no matter who or where we approach God through Jesus Christ. No matter who, what, where, when, how, why he comes - Rom. 8:15-17, Gal. 4:4-6, Tit. 3:4-7. (2) We are of the same body with the Jews. God's love is universal. He is creating a body from all nations. This is more than an organization, it is a living organism. The Spirit of God is creating this organism by melting and molding the hearts of believers to each other. We become one in life and purpose - Jn. 17:20-21. (3) We receive the same promise of Christ as the Jews. God promised Abraham that he would have the Promised Land Canaan. The spiritual side of this Canaan is a type of heaven.

3:7-9: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

The mystery has a profound effect on Paul. The ministry was a radiant privilege for Paul. God didn't have to persuade Paul. No one had to force him to teach (4:1) sing (5:19) speak (4:17) visit (II Cor. 13:1) to administer (I Cor. 7:1) to give his money (II Cor. 8:1, 9:1). He says his call as a great privilege. Paul also says that this call was a gift of God's grace. There was nothing inherent in Paul to make him worthy of being called by God. The salvation in Christ caused Paul to become a minister (vs. 7), II Cor. 4:1-2, II Cor. 5:18-21, I Tim. 1:12. The salvation in Christ caused Paul to become a preacher. We should do well in noticing Paul's utter humility. He had what everyone needs - a deep, internal sense of unworthiness before God. I Cor. 1:17-30, 2:2-4, I Cor. 9:16. The salvation in Christ caused Paul to become a dynamic (vs. 9) witness or evangelist - Acts 18:9-10, Tit. 2:15, II Tim. 1:8.

3:10-12: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

The mystery of Christ proudly affects heavenly beings. They stand in amazement at what God is doing in the church (10). God's glorious purpose in salvation is to show his love and wisdom to the whole universe. Rom.11:33, Rev.5:9-13. Heavenly beings stand in stark amazement at God's eternal purpose in Christ Jesus. II Tim. 1:9, Tit. 1:2. Heavenly beings stand in amazement at the believers' access into God's presence. Jn. 10:9, Rom. 5:1-2.

3:13: Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Conclusion: Paul is, therefore, willing to suffer for the church; the glory of all that lies ahead for the believer; so glorious that any suffering is worth the reward. Therefore, no believer should ever "faint" in suffering or in seeing other believers suffer. It is all worth the price we are called to bear even martyrdom.

B. The great prayer for the body, the church and the believer - 3:14-21. This is Paul's prayer for the church. It is considered the second most important prayer in the Bible.

3:14-15: For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom

the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

The Prayer was for a specific purpose. "For this cause" refers to God's eternal plan, salvation. It is of utmost necessity that the work be completed. It was so important that it drove Paul to his knees. Bowing shows a person is utterly dependent upon God, is earnest, is revering God, is humble before God. The prayer addresses God as the Father of our Lord. Paul was praying to the God who would listen and answer prayers. It is addressed to the Father of the whole family of God.

3:16: That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

The first request is for strength and power in the inner man. Strengthen: to be made strong, enduring. Power: energy, might. We as believers need to be strengthened with power in the "inner man." It is the spirit that God has renewed. Why? Because it is the only way we can overcome the flesh - temptation and sin - grief and death; trouble and trials - selfishness and worldliness; disease and suffering - problems and circumstances. Because it is the only way we can lay claim to all the blessings and fulfill God's eternal purpose for our lives. We must be strong to be everything God wants him to be. To do everything God wants him to do. The source of this conquering strength and power: the Holy Spirit. He dwells within the inner man of each of us. There is no other source that has enough power to conquer trials and corruptions. The great prayer for each of us would be that God would grant us "be strengthened with might by His Spirit." How do we know God will hear and answer prayers "according to the riches of His glory?" The answer is found in these passages of scripture II Cor. 12:9, 10; Col. 1:11; Heb. 11:33, Is. 41:10.

3:17: That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

The second request - Paul's second request is for Christ to dwell (rule, reign) in our hearts. Dwell: a permanent dwelling. This verse means that Christ would be at home and live in a permanent sense, that the believer would always be aware of Christ's residency, that the believer would let Christ control and guide his life. It is the presence of Christ within that motivates the believer to follow Christ. It is by faith that this is. Biblical faith is not a wish or hope. It always means the belief and commitment of a person's life to truth and reality - Jn. 4:20, 17:23, I Jn. 3:24.

The third request - vs.17B. Paul's third request is for God's kind of love to be in us and flow from us to others whether they be friend or foe.

3:18: May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

The fourth request - Paul's fourth request is for spiritual understanding. It is a crucial thing for each of us to grasp God's eternal plan. It is in all that has already been discussed. God has provided so much for us that it can't be measured. Therefore, we need to pray and seek for God to increase our understanding. The more we comprehend, the more we will surrender our lives. The more we understand what God has done for us, the more we will reach out to take the love and salvation of God to a world dying in sin. I Cor. 2:9-12, Prov. 2:6.

3:19: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

The Fifth request - Paul's fifth request is to know the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge. It may well be impossible in these mortal bodies to know (experience) the love of God in the fullest measure, but we should pray for God to help us grasp more and more of it - Luke. 2:40, Gal. 1:4-5, II Cor. 5:15-21.

The sixth request - is for the fullness of God which is that you may be filled through all your being. The believer has now, the indwelling presence of the Spirit, Christ & Father - Jn. 14:16-23. Each person of the Godhead has a different function. We should ask for all the fullness of God. F.F. Bruce: said "The preposition 'unto' suggests a progressive experience." We are to constantly pray to be filled with this fullness - Rom. 11:33-36.

3:20-21: 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, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Here is encouragement to pray and trust God for answers. God is able to do what we ask. See how strong God is. He is...

Exceedingly - to surpass, to go beyond any request.

Abundantly - to overflow and to do more than enough.

Above - to go over and above any need.

All that we ask - all that we can think - imaging going beyond anything we can think!

Nave's Reference Bible records God's power. HE is able...

To raise up children from stones - Lk. 3:8.

To fulfill promises - Rom. 4:21.

To make grace abound to all - II Cor. 9:8.

To do exceedingly above measure- Eph. 3:20.
To subdue all things - Ph. 3:21.
To guard the soul's treasure - II Tim. 1:12.
To save to the uttermost - Heb. 7:25.
To keep from falling - Jude 24.
The source of answered prayers: it is the power that works within us. The combined power that God has put within us.
The power of the Spirit strengthening us.
The power of Christ indwelling us.
The power of love working in us.
The power of understanding all God does.
The power of the fullness of God himself.
Mt. 19:26, Luke. 1:37, Rom. 8:13, Rom. 16:25, II Tim. 1:7.
Note the purpose of God in answering prayer and in doing all this for us
- that HE might be glorified in the church thorough Christ Jesus.

Chapter 4

The walk of the believer

The first 3 chapters dealt with pure doctrine. We have seen great theological truths revealing the "believers position in Christ"; also truths showing us to be soaring in the heavenlies with Christ. Now we come to earth and see where we are. How does all that is covered in the first 3 chapters work in our lives everyday?

The believer is to walk worthy of his calling. God has through His Son done more than we could ever repay: provided righteousness, provided a substitute, provided deliverance from death, provided a new life for us, provided absolute assurance, provided so much, an eternity could not describe it. God has honored us as much as a creature can be. We owe God, we owe so much that we could never begin to pay him. What then can we do, walk worthy.

4:1-2: I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,
beseech you that ye walk worthy of the
vocation wherewith ye are called, With all
lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering,
forbearing one another in love;

How can the believer walk worthy? Once a person believes and becomes a member of God's people and of God's church, what must we do? Walk with all lowliness - Ph. 2:3 (humility). Walk with all meekness - Gal. 5:22, 23. Walk with all love (forbearing others) Gal. 5:13-15. Walk with long-suffering - Gal. 5:22, 23 (patience).

The purpose for walking worthy: to keep the peace of unity. We are to work at walking worthy, so we might keep the peace so we may stay bound in the unity of God's spirit. Jesus has broken down all walls, all nationalities, all people, all languages, the poor, the rich, the physical colors. Every person is precious in the sight of God. Everyone comes to God the same way "Jesus Christ." The Spirit of God binds each of us to the other. WE are to set aside all differences, prejudices and live in love, peace, unity. Too often believers allow self and the old life to run the picture. Their old: prejudices, differences, hurts, jealousies, complaints, criticisms, grumblings, gripes, pride, arrogance, comparisons, dislikes. The result is catastrophic for the church, there is no unified front presented to the unsaved causing confusion! "Endeavor" working to take care and to do ones very best and make haste to do it. The only way to walk worthy of God is to work at keeping peace and unity - I Cor. 1:10, II Cor. 13:11, Ph. 1:27, I Pet. 3:8.

The 7 Basic reasons: 7 reasons why we should walk worthy and keep unity in the church. Far too often the place that is to be peace and unity is where it often flies apart.

- (1) Only one body - not 2 or 5 or 10, only one body, Christ's. God does 6 things to a new believer. He gives a new birth - Tit. 3:5, Jn. 1:12-13. HE makes us a new creature - II Cor. 5:17, Col. 3:10. HE gives us his divine nature - II Pet. 1:4. He puts his Holy Spirit into the believer; our body becomes a temple for him - Jn. 14:16-17, I Cor. 3:16, 6:19-20. He causes us to bear fruit - Gal. 5:22-23. He places us into the new body of people - I Cor. 12:13. The last two are proof that a believer cant be in conflict with another unless he is walking in the flesh and is backslidden, ill spirit, seeking our own way, struggling for position, forming cliques, self centered differences, selfishness, reactions of envy, feeling superior, anger. Such have no place in the church, the body of Christ. There is only one body - Rom. 12:5, I Cor. 12:27, Col. 1:24, 2:18.
- (2) Only one Spirit - the Holy Spirit that dwells in one member dwells in all members. It is God's spirit that causes man to be born again - Jn. 3:5, 6, 6:63, Rom. 8:11. It is God's Spirit that calls, fights and directs each member for the work - Acts 13:2, Rom. 8:14, I Cor. 12:7.
- (3) There is only one hope - every genuine believer has the same hope; the day of redemption. Life in the new heavens will be a life of love, joy and peace of oneness and unity. The hope for eternity should be the driving force that stirs us to live together in peace and unity - Rom. 15:9, Col. 1:4,5, Tit. 2:12, 13.
- (4) There is only one Lord - only one master and King. Every believer is to bow before the same Lord to become loyal subjects and to receive our orders to live as he said - holy and righteous, pure. We are to carry out his orders as one body - Mt. 7:21-23, PH. 2:9-11.

- (5) There is only one faith - there are not 2 or more. There is only 1 faith that leads to God, that of Jesus Christ. It is not the Baptist faith or Church of God, or Church of Christ though we read obituaries that state such things, and people who do not really have Jesus say such things - Gal. 1:23, Jude 3.
- (6) There is only one baptism - all believers give public witness to their faith by submitting to baptism. That picture of Christ's death reported by being buried in a watery grave and brought to walk in new life. Baptism is that ordinance that ties the knot in our relationship with each other - Rom. 6:3, I Cor. 12:13.
- (7) There is only one God and Father of all - what a confession of faith. One God - God is creator of all and as such is supreme over all. One Father of all; not the universal fatherhood of humanism but Father to all who accept Jesus as Saviour only. Above all - God controls all. If there is only one God and Father of all believers, how then could He be leading two of his children to stand toe to toe against each other? He could and would not, therefore one or both are carnal - I Tim. 2:5,6, I Jn. 5:7, Mk. 12:29.

4:7-16: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by

that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

We are to walk using our gifts by him. The word “but” is strong, we are one body but we each have individual gifts that create a flower garden of diversity. There are 3 important thoughts in this passage.

1. Every believer is gifted - “unto every one” there is no believer left out, each has his or her own gift given by Christ. It is not a natural ability or talent but that which is given beyond the normal. Jesus also supplies the grace necessary to use the gift. Grace here is strength, wisdom, courage, motivation, power. Our gift is the best gift for us - we should never desire another - Mt. 25:15, Rom. 12:6, I Cor. 4:7, I Cor. 12:4.
2. Every believer’s gift has cost the greatest price. The picture - it is of an ancient king who has conquered his enemies receiving gifts from them he then bestows them on his people - Ps. 68:18. Christ has gone to war for us and conquered our enemies - alienation and separation - emptiness, uselessness, loneliness - enemy of sin and death. Christ’s gifts give us purpose and meaning. If this is so, why so many Christians are bored with life, empty wanting a change: an uncommitted life, not one totally surrendered - Luke. 9:23; an uncommitted life of service - they have not sacrificed themselves - Mt. 16:25; most of their time spent sowing to the flesh instead of the spirit - Gal. 6:8. The cost Christ paid to gain the right to give gifts. He had to die and go to the lowest parts of the earth. He went to the paradise side of Hell - Rom. 10:6-7, Ph. 2:8, Mt. 12:40. The great value of what Christ did: he did so that he could ascend above the heavens and fill all things with his presence. He rules and reigns over all - Luke. 22:69, Rev. 5:12.
3. Every believer’s gift is Christ centered (v. 11): “He gave” - it is Christ and he alone who gives gifts. You can’t work up, nor share these gifts. Here are some of them. (1) An apostle - to send out an ambassador, a representative. Three things are true of an apostle: he belongs to the one who has sent him, he is commissioned to be sent out, and he possesses all the authority and power of the one who sends him out. The title “Apostle” has both a narrow and broad usage: in the narrow, it refers to the 12 apostles and Paul, Acts 1:21, 22; I Cor. 9:1 – who was chosen directly by the Lord - Mt. 10:1,2. He had companioned with Christ; and was an eyewitness of the resurrected Lord. In the broad sense - it refers to others who preached the Gospel: Barnabas, Silas, 2 messengers, Titus, Epaphroditus.

The believer is to walk in Christ. Believers did not learn such a sinful life from Christ. He didn't do it and his teaching wasn't in that direction. Christ through the Holy Spirit uses the body and voice of the ministry to teach people how they are to live. The true walk is in Christ, defined in 3 actions:

4:17-22: This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

The old man, this refers to who we were prior to Christ - it is the natural corruptible seed. Three things about old man:

1. The believer's old man is already put to death - Rom. 6:6 at salvation God counts us as dead.
2. The deeds have been put off - Col. 3:9. The power of evil deeds has been broken in believer's life.
3. We are exhorted to put off the old man. He is told to exercise his will in putting off the old man. Paul says the old man is dead in Rom. 6:11. The old man is recognized as being very much alive. It is the old man which is tempted to taste, look, feel, think, and sin - Rom. 6:12-13. The old man (including creation) is aging and dying daily. The believer realizes everything marching toward death - II Pet. 1:9, Col. 3:8, I Pt. 4:3.

The Believers mind is to be renewed or turned, regenerated.

1. The mind of man has been affected by sin - man's mind:
 - Has become vain - empty - Rom. 1:21
 - Has become a reprobate - Rom. 1:28
 - Has become carnal an enemy of God - Rom. 8:7They are spiritually dead, doomed to eternal death. "Alienated" estranged, separated, cut off. The alienated one is estranged and separated from God with unfriendly or hostile feelings, cut off from God, detached from God. Why? Not because of God. They are alienated of their own willful ignorance. "Blindness" is the word for hardness. They choose to be ignorant within their minds. They choose

to harden their own hearts. They are responsible for their own death - Mt. 15:8, Acts 28:27, I Tim. 5:6, Ps. 58:3, Jer. 2:5.

Unbelievers are past feeling. They reach a point where they no longer have feelings for God. Past feeling to become callous, insensible, hardened. Sin becomes more and more acceptable; the conscience no longer bothers him - I Tim. 4:2, Heb. 5:11. Unbelievers give themselves to lasciviousness - all forms of sensual living. Unbelievers indulge in uncleanness and dirty, filthy infested with every unclean immoral dirty, polluted behavior. It is unbridled lust - Mt. 5:28, Rom. 6:19, I Th. 4:7, Heb. 13:4.

Greediness - avarice, coveting, desiring to have more and more hoarding all one can get. Enslaved by the things of this earth:

- has become blind II Cor. 4:4
- has become full of vanity 4:17
- has become focused on earthly things Ph. 3:18, 19
- has become alienated from God Col. 1:21
- has become defiled Tit. 1:15

2. The mind is renewed by the presence of Christ. He is:

- born again Jn. 3:3-8
- made into new man Col. 3:10
- made into a new creature II Cor. 5:17
- given mind of Christ I Cor. 2:9-16

The truth is this and it is wonderful...when someone accepts Christ, they receive a new spiritual body created just for them by Christ and then given his mind to govern its actions.

3. The believer is to live a transformed life. Constantly renewing his mind:

- the believer is to love the Lord Mt. 22:37
- the believer is to keep his mind on spiritual things Rom. 8:5-6
- the believer is to cast down everything that blocks God II Cor. 10:3-5
- the believer is not to fulfill the desires of the flesh Eph. 2:3
- the believer is to think only on praise and virtue Ph. 4:8

A man regenerated who has become spiritually minded. He has been given a holy nature and an incorruptible life. A man who is:

- in fellowship with God
- obedient to God's will
- devoted to God's service
-

The word “new” here carries the idea of just made with nothing like it in existence. HE takes a Jew or gentile and makes them into an entirely new creation. How is this possible? By the power of God; it is

- God quickens the spirit of the believer
- God causes the believer to be born again spiritually
- God actually places His divine nature into us
- God creates a new man
- God renews the believer by the Holy Spirit

4:25-32: Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

The believer is to walk putting off the garments of the old. This is a most practical passage. When we go somewhere we put on the right clothes. If you put on clothes that clash, you are unacceptable. There are things we should put on our lives and things we should not put on that clash. First Paul lists the things to put off.

1. The garment of lying (25) - the word “lying” means that which is false.
 - A. a lie does at least 3 things:
 1. Lying misrepresents the truth, it camouflages.
 2. Lying deceives a person - a person deceives to get what he wants, to seduce someone, to cover up or hide something, to cause harm or hurt.
 3. Lying builds a wrong relationship - one on sinking sand. Lying destroys confidence, trust, love, security, assurance, hope.
 - B. scripture gives a strong reason to speak only the truth. We are members, one of another, in the body of Christ.

- c. The believer is to be altogether what he says. He is to be the same in public as he is in private and vice versa.
- 2. The garment of anger - people do become angry and there is even a time for anger. However, we are to guard against anger becoming sin in our lives. Anger causes us to lash out, hurt others, or motivate us to right wrongs and correct injustice.
 - A. there is a wrong anger - unjustified or selfish.
 - 1. There is the anger that broods, it will not forget. It wills and seeks revenge.
 - 2. There is the anger that holds contempt. It ridicules, arrogantly exalts self and calls others useless. It arises from pride - Prov. 21:24.
 - 3. There is the anger that curses. It seeks to destroy a man and his reputation.
 - b. there is right anger or justified anger. The believer must be angry with those who sin is unjust, selfish in behavior. Justified anger is purposeful, not selfish. Rom. 12:18, Jn. 2:12-16.
 - c. The devil exploits selfish anger; and uses it for his own purposes. He sows discord and disturbance, dissension. He is a slanderer, one who murders the reputation - Mt. 5:21-22, Col. 3:8, James 1:19, I Jn. 3:15, Ps. 37:8, Prov. 14:17, 16:32, 19:11, Ecc. 7:9.
- 3. The garment of stealing - "steal" to cheat, take wrongful either legally or illegally. Men can sometimes use the law to steal. Men can take from others without ever breaking the law. Men can secure too much of something beyond their need. Three forms of stealing:
 - 1. Taking someone else's possession - Tit 2:10, I Pet. 4:15.
 - 2. A person steals by hoarding and banking more than he needs, keeping back is stealing - Mal. 3. Keeping what is not needed for one's own needs, keeping back what is desperately needed by others, hoarding the knowledge and gifts and blessings God gave to be used for the welfare of a desperate world - Mt. 6:19-21, Luke. 3:13, I Tim. 6:9-19.
 - 3. A person steals by living extravagantly beyond what he needs. Some give, yet not sacrificially. They keep back plenty indulging in: clothing, food, jewelry, housing, transportation, recreation, possessions, property. Many are guilty of selfishness, thinking not of the sad lot of humanity. The means to help meet the needs of the world exist. What does not is sacrificial commitment to give and to do. Mt. 19:21, Mt. 23:25, Amos 5:11. What is the answer? Diligent work - work to be able to give it away for Jesus sake!
- 4. The garment of worthless talk - we need to strip away filthy and foul talk; the word "Corrupt" means rotten foul, putrid, polluting. A man with a sinful mouth is: foul, dirty, obscene, polluted, filthy, detestable, profane, dishonorable, and offensive. The obscene mouth may range

from off-colored humor to outright propositions for sex. The filth from the mouth shows us his character - Mt. 12:34, Prov. 24:2. The believer is to speak only that which is good and edifying. Speech is for sharing good things, building up and strengthening people, ministering grace - Luke. 24:32, Ps. 14:13, Prov. 16:24, Mal. 3:16.

5. The garment of being contrary - "grieving" is to bring pain, offend, vex, and sadden. When a child acts contrary to a parent's counsel he hurts, or grieves them. It is the same to a believer towards the Holy Spirit. Three things:
 - A. the command is forceful - this is seen in the double name of the Holy Spirit
 - b. there are at least 4 ways the Holy Spirit can be grieved: when we allow impure things to penetrate our lives - Rom. 8:5-7; when believers behave immorally - Rom. 8:12-13; when believers act unjustly - Acts 5:3-4; when believers go contrary to the Holy Spirit - Rom. 8:8-10.
 - c. The reason we should not grieve the Spirit - the ministry he does for us, he has sealed us.
6. The garment of unkindness
 1. There is bitterness - resentment harshness - sharp, resentful, cynical, cold, harsh, stressed, intense, relentless, unpleasant. Expression of any of these is sin to God.
 2. There is wrath
 3. There is anger
 4. There is clamor - arguing, fussing, quarreling, brawling, insulting, boisterous behavior, loud taking.
 5. There is malice-slander, hurtful, injurious speech
7. Put on the garments of the new man
 1. "Kind" - gentle caring, helpful, it is treating people like family - Rom. 12:10, Col. 3:12.
 2. Tenderhearted - to show compassion to be aware of a persons hurts - Mt. 5:7, Luke. 6:36, Jn. 13:35, Rom. 12:9.
 3. Forgiving - to be gracious, to pardon for some wrong - the command is to forgive.
 4. The reason to forgive is because God has forgiven us. No matter what you do to forgive, God has done much more. Luke. 17:4, Col. 3:13.
- E. the Believer is to walk following God - 5:1-7. These verses represent one of the great challenges. The great pattern for believers is God Himself.

CHAPTER FIVE

We are to walk following God.

5:1: Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

How are we able to walk after God? By becoming a follower of God; “Be” carries the idea is of commitment and attachment to God; to surrender with great devotion. The word “Followers” means to be imitators, just like children imitate their parents. We are to become like God. Christ said: Mt. 5:48, “Be perfect, because God is perfect.” God demanded: Lev. 19:2, “Be holy for I am Holy.” Paul declared: II Cor. 4:18, “To not look at seen, but at the unseen.” Peter charged: I Pet. 1:15-16, “Be holy in all manner of life.”

5:2: And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

By loving as Christ loved. Two things about Christ’s death arise here; first He “gave Himself for us” has profound meaning. He did not die to show us how to die for a cause. Instead it shows us he did in our place, as our substitute. The idea of sacrifice in that day was life given in another’s place. The idea of sacrifice is in the very words. Jn.6:51, 10:11-15. A sweet smelling savor - “offering” the Old Testament burnt offering - Lev. 1:1. This offering was not just for sin but the offering was honoring and glorifying God. Jesus was doing more than meeting our need, he was honoring God. John14:31, Luke. 2:42, Jn. 5:30. The believer is to walk as an ongoing offering and sacrifice to God. Jn. 13:35, I Th. 3:12, I Jn. 3:14.

5:3-4: But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

The second is by being morally pure. If we are to follow God, we must be morally pure. You can't let your life become dirty. We have to keep from fornication, uncleanness, covetousness. They are not to be allowed in our lives even once, nor even mentioned. It is an imperative command. God has nothing to do with such dirt - Mt. 5:8, I Tim. 1:5, I Pet. 1:22.

The believer follows God by being clean mouthed. If you are to follow God your speech must be pure. We are never to use our mouth in obscene speech, Rom. 1:26-27, Rom. 6:19, James 1:21, II Pet. 2:9-10. We are never to engage in foolish talk. That is empty, senseless, idle, purposeless talk that fritters away time. I Tim. 1:10, Prov. 10:19, Eccl. 10:13. We are not to engage in "jesting" - this is talk used in useless ways to draw overt attention to ourselves. Prov. 26:18, 19, II Tim. 3:6. Instead our speech is to uplift others in body and spirit and that will bring praise to God - Col. 3:17, 4:6. II Tim. 1:13, Tit. 2:8.

5:5-7: For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

The believer follows God by knowing his solemn warning. There are 3 things.

Unclean has no part with God whatsoever! The profession does not matter if you practice these things. You will not share the kingdom. These doom a person. Being a whoremonger - fornication, immoral behavior; being an unclean person - dirty thoughts or behavior; being a covetous person; being an idolater - anything in front of God or beside.

These are deceivers - people who will tell us: that all forms of sex are normal and natural and affairs do not hurt. That securing possessions is normal behavior that banking and storing is acceptable. The Bible says different - Rom. 16:18, II Cor. 11:13-14, II Tim. 3:13.

There are still two main deceptions: (1) there are those who feel that you can say and do anything and still be acceptable to God. They feel the spirit is the only important part of man. The body means nothing to God! (2) There were those primarily within the church who felt sin was irrelevant. How much sin one commits doesn't matter to God, He forgives anyway - Rom. 1:18, 2:5.

The believer follows God by separating himself from the unclean - Acts 2:40, Rom. 12:2, II Cor. 6:14-18, I Jn. 2:15-16.

5:8-14: For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth). Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

The believer is to walk as a child of light. There are two walks though life either: light or dark.

Light, not darkness is the nature of believers (v.8). Before a person is saved, he is darkness. He does not know where he came from, why he is on earth and where he is going after death. This is what is meant about man being in darkness - Mt. 6:23, Jn. 1:5, Rom. 13:12, I Th. 5:4. However, the truth is glorious, the believer was darkness, but now he is light in the Lord. We also have the beginning and origin of all things; the purpose, meaning, and significance of all things. There is the truth of death and eternity; Jesus shows us light and makes us light.

Light bears the things of life - the fruit of the spirit (5:9). A light that illuminates will give off 3 things: goodness, righteousness, and truth. Righteousness has in it two simple but profound things. Be right and do right.

There are those who bring right not doing right. This produces 2 errors: False security - believes they are acceptable by simply believing yet do not practice holy living; rather they practice Loose living - it allows one to go out and do as they please. There are those who stress doing right and neglect being right. This also leads to two errors: Self-righteousness and legalism - it causes people to claim acceptance by God, and by good works; and Being judgmental and fault finding - these people keep rules and judge others by them - Mt. 5:20, I Tim. 6:11, Tit. 2:12-13.

The word "Truth" in verse 9; is Moral, saving, working, living truth. It is not just something to know but something to be done - Jn. 8:31, Ps. 51:6. It is a regard for truth in every area - believing, revering, speaking, acting, hoping, rejoicing - Jn. 7:16, 17, Col. 1:10. God's word is the written truth, Jesus is the living truth. The truth that sets men free from doubly - Jn. 1:9,14, II Cor. 3:17. The truth sets men free from the bondage of sin - Jn. 1:12, Rom. 8:6-15. The truth sets men free from the bondage of death - Heb. 2:14-15, Jn. 5:24-29. The truth sets men free from the bondage of judgment - Jn. 3:16, Rom. 5:6-9, I Pet. 2:24, I Pet.

3:18. The truth sets men free to be saved to the uttermost - Heb. 7:25, Col. 2:9-10.

Light shows what is acceptable as in verse 10; As the believer walks in the light he proves what is acceptable and not acceptable. He discriminates between what is acceptable and not acceptable to the Lord. He shows to the world what is acceptable and not acceptable to the Lord. He shows what path to take and what path not to take. He shows what a person should do and not do. Everything the believer does is to be "unto the Lord." I Th. 4:1, 5:21, Heb. 11:5, Heb. 13:16, I Jn. 4:1.

Light exposes the works of darkness - v. 11-12. The charge is clear and forceful: we are to have no fellowship (anything in common with) the works of darkness. They are dark - leaving a person groping, unable to see in a lost world; unfruitful - bearing no lasting fruit to go beyond this world. They lead to death - I Cor. 5:9, II Cor. 6:14-18, I Jn. 2:15, 16. The believer's task is clear: we are to live in the light so much that our lives reprove people of sin. Sin is never to be taken lightly. We should have the light in us that will expose sin in others Luke. 17:3, II Tim. 4:2. The reason why we should not fellowship with the dark is this - it is a shame to speak of dark things - Mt. 5:37, Col. 4:6, Tit. 2:8.

Light reveals and converts everything it teaches - v. 13. When light touches something it becomes light. It is lit up and reflects back the light. So long as evil is done in secret it thrives. The reason people don't come face to face with Christ is that their sin is exposed. Light awakens the sleeping, those spiritually dead. Most of the world is rushing headlong to a dark eternity, asleep to the realization of the light - Rom. 13:11, I Cor. 15:34. The only source to awakening out of spiritual sleep is Jesus - Jn. 1:4, Jn. 8:12, Jn. 12:35.

5:15-21: See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

The believer is to walk carefully and strictly. How we walk everyday is crucial to the cause of Christ. We can either help build society or tear it down. Therefore we must walk carefully. How?

By looking around and watching our step - vs. 15. Life is like a path through the woods that we walk daily. Everyday God expects us to walk carefully. There are generally 2 kinds of walkers. (1) There is the fool or unwise person; one who is unthinking, thoughtless, careless, uncaring. The unwise person gives little thought about where he goes. He believes he is right if he lives just fairly decent and honorable and just pays some dues to God here and there. He cares little about a strict life. (2) There is the wise person. One who is thinking, thoughtful, careful, caring, spiritually minded. One who is on a mission? Sin matters to him; they dwell on God all day. He knows the answers to evil and life's problems; is Jesus Christ and His righteousness.

We need to live life by redeeming the time - vs. 16. Each person has the same amount of time so it's not about buying more. It does mean...that a person is to use time wisely. Time is a gift from God. The choice is ours, fritter it away or use it keeping our minds and hands busy. In our profession and work contributing to society, in our worship and service for Christ, joining with others in witnessing and ministering to the lost, in meeting the needs of a world reeling under sin and suffering.

We use our time by taking advantage of the opportunities that arise daily. Opportunities to: live rightly and godly, witness and share Christ be diligent on the job, be faithful to God and family, speak up for Christ. We need to do this because the days are evil. Because of evil opportunity to: witness will pass, show diligence will pass, to speak up will pass, to minister will pass, to work hard will pass, to give will pass.

How many of us waste time by not being efficient, by watching TV, by unprofitable activity, by what we read, in restaurants, by useless activity and talk. We need to stop and think through where we waste time. I Cor. 7:29-31, Col. 4:5, Ps. 90:12.

Walk by understanding the Lord's will - 5:17. The wise and unwise are defined: the unwise is one who does not understand the will of the Lord. The wise does understand; to "Understand" means to grasp, perceive, see with the mind. How can you know His will? By knowing the word of God, so well it is easily applied - Jn. 8:31-32, II Tim. 2:15, Ps. 119:9-11. One can know God's will by becoming sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading - Jn. 14:26, 16:7-8, Ps. 143:10.

By not becoming drunk with wine; or not be intoxicated with drink or drugs. The word Excess means excess behavior: the dissipation and wasting of the body. Uncontrolled behavior is to live a life of rioting, debauchery, wild and outrageous behavior. Drunkenness is a work of the flesh and leads to other sins. The Bible says several things about drunkenness: (1) drunkenness excludes a person from God's kingdom - I Cor. 6:10. (2) Leads to other forms of misbehavior - Luke. 15:13. (3) Makes it impossible to grasp the waste of time.

We are to live our daily lives by being filled with the spirit - vs. 18-21. This command is to be done daily, we are to constantly be filled - Acts 2:4, 4:29-31. This is personal manifestation of Christ to the believer - Jn. 14:21-22. Christ loves us so much; he will do whatever to lift us up, to strengthen us, to conform us to his image. Manifestation - unveiling or revelation. Christ discloses His person, His nature, His goodness - Acts 4:31, 13:52

Three things of a Spirit filled person:

- (1) They have a singing spirit - joy, happiness. What do we sing? Psalms - they were meant to be sung. Hymns - the great old songs. Spiritual songs - those that bring a joy or richness emotion to our lives - I Cor. 14:15, James 5:13, Ps. 81:1, Ps. 95:1.
- (2) A spirit filled person has a thankful spirit "always" "for all things." Our lives are in the Lord's hands. He guides, directs, therefore, we can thank him for all Ph. 4:6, Col. 3:17, I Th. 5:18, I Chi. 16:8.
- (3) A spirit filled person has a submissive and respectful spirit. They do not have a spirit of criticism, dissension, envy, or selfishness. A spirit filled church has within people going out of their way to minister to each other - Mt. 18:4, Rom. 12:3, I Cor. 16:16, Ph. 2:3-4, I Pet. 5:5.

5:22-23: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

The believing wife and husband are to walk in a spirit of submission and love. In dealing with wives and husbands, we must always keep before us God's instructions are not grievous. If we walk down the path God lays we will experience love and peace and the fullest life imaginable. This is double for husbands and wives for they are one. The wife is to walk in a spirit of submission - 22-23. There are three reasons for this.

- (A) To submit is God's will. In fact, it is God's command there can be no argument, no question. God is God, and as God, He can demand anything; it is to be done unto the Lord. Why? Because we love him! He gave himself for us, this is always the first reason to obey. What kind of spirit is the Christian wife to have as she obeys a spirit of slavery or love, a spirit of drudgery or love, a spirit of resentment or love, a spirit of reaction or love? The answer is obvious, out of love, if she loves the Lord to please Him she submits to her husband. This is not to be done out of resentment and reaction because of this command.
- (B) To submit is God's order for the family, 22, and 23.
There is to be a partnership and order within the family. No family or business can survive without partnership and order. 3 facts:

The husband is the head of the wife. Now the word “head” refers to authority not being spiritually superior. Men and women are equal in God’s eyes.

There is an essential partnership; neither is independent of the other. Both are from the other - I Cor. 11:11-12.

-There is neither male nor female in Gods’ eyes, each is as significant as the other - Gal. 3:28.

-When God says head he is talking about function and order in the family.

God gave a great pattern for the wife to follow; and that is Christ and the Church.

Christ has all authority over the church; as long as the church lives by this she experiences love, joy, peace, and orderliness and can carry out its mission on earth.

So also the husband and wife, if she submits to his God ordained authority, she and the family will experience love, joy, peace, and functions properly. This assures the husband is fulfilling his role.

The husband is the saviour of the body. Christ is saviour of the church, he protects and comforts. The husband is to protect the wife and comfort her. The man is by design larger and stronger and should be the main protector.

3. To submit is a spiritual mystery (v. 23).

The wife is comparable to the church. The pattern is

-As she submits to Christ, so she is to submit to her husband.

-As she depends upon Christ for help and protection, so she is to depend upon her husband in help and protection.

-The same for comfort and companionship.

It does not mean the woman is inferior, however two heads on anything is a monstrosity. God arranges things in a spirit of tenderness and love. The wife is to submit in a spirit of understanding and reasonableness. Prov. 31:10-31, Col. 3:18, I Rim. 2:11-13, I Tim. 3:11, I Pet. 3:1, Gen. 3:16.

24: Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Paul makes a clear, concise, complete statement on how God has arranged the order of the family. Paul uses Christ and the church to drive the point home as Christ is the head of the church; and He is over the church or to say it more distinctly the church in God’s plan is placed under Christ the head. Now because that is the order and God says all things are to be done in order wives are to willingly place themselves under the Husbands leadership. Of this there can be no argument to do so is to commit rebellion before the Lord. In the following verses is the

opposite side of the coin. As much as wives are to submit that is how much husbands are to love them and more.

5:25-33: Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband

The Husband is to Love His Wife. There are five (grace) major things here for husbands. The love of a Husband is to be the love of God. It is a selfless, sacrificial love, it is of mind and heart, and it is of will and commitment. It works for the highest good

- That loves even if the person does not deserve it.
- That loves even if the person is unworthy.

What would happen in most marriages if husbands loved this way!

The standard is Christ's love for the church. He gave himself in sacrifice for the Church

This sacrificial love of the husband involves 3 things

- a. It is to be set apart and cleansed
- b. The husband's love involves having no spot or wrinkle
Spots -mistakes, things that tarnish life - mistreatment and abuse - loose immoral behavior - withdrawal and avoidance.
Wrinkles - things that cause friction - temper and reaction - broken promises and neglect - severe selfishness

c. His love involves being holy and without blemish "holy", separate, untouched by evil.

A husband's love for his wife should be that of his for his own body

1. He should nourish and cherish his wife

"Nourish" is to feed, clothe, nurture, and look after her
"Cherish" is to hold ever so dear- to treat with warmth, tenderness, care, affection and appreciation

2. He is to become one body, one flesh, one set of bones complete absorption and assimilation of

- body and spirit
- mind and thought
- objective and purpose
- behavior and activity

C. This love is to be so strong it draws him from his parents

D. It is to be a spiritual mystery

E. He is to love his wife as himself and she is to respect her husband.

To join together: glue, cement in closest union. It is more than physical union; it is a spiritual joining that rises far above what animals do. It is a spiritual dedication, consecration, and completeness, satisfaction that makes a person the exclusive possession of God and spouse. A couple spiritually united does two very practical things

1. They submit, yield, surrender, sacrifice, and give them up to the other in the fear of the Lord.

2. They share the presence of God and His grace together. They share the knowledge and confidence

- that God will look out for them forever
- That God shall carry them through all life's trials
- that God will bless them with all the necessities of life
- that God shall give them an abundant entrance into His

kingdom

No more beautiful picture of marriage could be painted. Yet two serious problems exist in far too many marriages.

1. The problem of one or both of the spouses's being unwilling to be bound together by the Spirit of God

2. The problem one or both of the spouses being unwilling to break away from dependency of the parents

IV marriage is (verse32) it is a spiritual union, based on Christ and His love for the Church. A true marriage is based in love as seen in verse 25. Sacrificial love also in verse 25; A love equal to love of self as seen in verses 28, and 33. It cherishes in v29. It is a union in v30. It is one body, and one flesh v30, 31

It is a mystery in v32

1. The home is to be lived in the Lord's presence
2. The home is to be governed by the Lord
3. The home is not to have two partners, but three, husband wife, and Christ.

CHAPTER 6

BELIEVING CHILDREN AND PARENTS ARE TO WALK UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY.

6:1-4: Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

These 4 verses are equally important for every generation. We live today in a generation of problem children and parents. We need to walk together under God's authority. Children are to obey their parents. "Obey" is to submit to, to heed, and to follow the directions. The child is to obey the parents. What about the child whose parents are abusive: physically, sexually, mentally, should they obey these? No! To obey means to obey "in the Lord" this means at least two things

There is a limit to the child's obedience. When a parent acts in the filth of unrighteousness and abuse the child has no need to be there. Jesus came to set people free. Listen to Jesus stern warn on child abuse in Mark 9:42-48. Parents need to heed Jesus words; He will not tolerate the abuse of a child. This phrase gives the why to the child. It is right, it is of the Lord, it pleases the Lord, obey then, follow them. It is not about solely pleasing the parent, but the Lord. The child is to know the Lord the child is to know the Lord in close relationship; Mark 7:10; Colossians 3:20; Proverbs 1:8; Proverbs 6:20; Proverbs 7:1; Proverbs 10:1, 20:11, 23:22, Ecclesiastes 12:1

To obey means to honor one's Father and Mother "Honor" means to esteem and value as precious, respect and reverence. Too often a child's response is one of these - talking back - speaking disrespectfully - cutting the parent down- not listening - ignoring -acting like a "know it all" - grumbling - disregarding instruction - putting off instruction.

There is also the dishonor of delinquency, drugs, crime, alcohol, abuse of property 1 Timothy 5:4, 8; Proverbs 20:20; Proverbs 30:17 ; Exodus 20:12.

There are two promises here to children who honor their parents. First things will go well for the child. Does this mean no problems? No! Rather that the Lord will be with him to help care and strengthen. Second the child is assured that he will live a long life, if a child practices obedience he will live long barring accident or such.

Parents are not to provoke their children. Parents are bound to upset and irritate their children "provoke" means to arouse to wrath or Anger. There are two things here to look at. First there are four things that will provoke a child. (1)Failing to accept the fact that things do change, time and generations change. It is not to allow children to do bad things in a generation, but rather to let them be a part of their generation and not

ours. Three things that should guide Rebellion, immorality, injustice, anything involving these three are to be dealt with. Over controlling a child will also provoke a child to wrath. Over control goes from stern restriction to child abuse, either of these will stifle a child's growth or bring rebellion and child fleeing. It is not allowing one to do as he or she pleases, there must be a balance. Under controlling a child can provoke a child. It is prevalent in every wealthy society, there is a tendency to pamper, indulge, and give everything beyond what a child needs. Parents pamper for five reasons. 1. In order to escape responsibility: to not interrupt the parent's time. Too few sacrifice their time to look after a child. 2. In order to gain social standing or to relive ones own childhood 3. Because there is a false understanding or philosophy of child rearing. The parent gives in to ill behavior, whining, pouting tantrums just to secure quiet. 4. because of misguided devotion and love: to keep from losing loyalty and affection. 5. Because of insecurity and lack of purpose: the child fills the void of their own insecurity in the world. Pro.13:24, 19:18, 22:15, 23:13, 29:15. Living an inconsistent life will provoke A parent who tells a child one thing and then turns around and does the opposite is full of hypocrisy. How many children are doing what they see the parents do - drinking - drugs -watching immorality -reading immoral stories --wasting time - dressing immodest - attending parties that flaunt sin. 1 Kings22:52; 2Chron.22:3 Jeremiah 9:14

A parent is to bring up a child in the ways of the Lord. The word "nurture" deals with the whole training and education of children, which involves the cultivation of mind and morals, commands, admonitions, reproof and punishment - the increase of virtue- "admonition"- counsel, exhortation, correction.

Parents are not to raise children according to their ideas, but what the Lord says. Not Doctor Spock, or the Humanist manifesto or NEA OR ACLU or any other man made ideas.

The benefits to bringing a child up in the Lord are. A child grows up learning that God loves him or her and allows love those who love him back. They learn power and triumph. God helps them. They learn the truth of life (service), despite the evil of the world; we are to serve in appreciation of life. They learn hope and faith no matter what happens. They learn trust and endurance: life is full of temptation, which can rob one of joy, following Christ prevents this. They grow up learning peace, that there is an inner peace that resides even in trouble Lamentations. 2:19; Isaiah 38:19; Deuteronomy 6:6, 7.

6:5-9: Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ,

doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Believing Employees and Employers are to “Walk” under God’s Authority.

Intro: This passage shows one of the world’s true problems. It is not an economic problem. Hunger and economic relationships between people and nations can only be solved when men turn to Christ.

There were millions of slaves in the Roman Empire. There are estimates of possibly as many as 60 million. The Gospel reached many of these and slaves filled the churches. The New Testament never attacks slavery it provides instruction for both master and slave in their conduct towards each other.

The workman: Is to obey (5-8); The Christian workman is to work with fear and trembling this does not mean with fear of men but with fear of God. The Christian workman; is to fear and tremble before God lest he perform some irresponsible work and bring reproach upon his Lord’s name. Is to respect and be eager to serve his employer (Luke 1:50)

The Christian workman is to work in “singleness of heart” that is with purpose without hypocrisy or slack. It is being totally committed to the work. (1cor. 6:20; Isaiah1:19). Workmen are not to work with eye service only. They are not to work only when the boss is around. There are those who work only to gain favor. There is only one question for the end of each day, have I pleased the Lord? (John 12:43; Proverbs 29:25)

The Christian is to work as the servant of Christ, doing the will of God from his or her heart with interest and energy. This is just the opposite of routine and listless. Christ sees what we are doing therefore we are to work as though we are working for Christ Himself.

The Christian is to work with “good will”. The worker is to be doing the work as to the Lord, not other men. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”. The result of such diligent labor is to be a reciprocal reward. The Lord is going to give the Christian workman exactly what he labored for; there is no respect of persons with God. Everyone receives the exact right amount of reward regardless of profession, wealth, position, or poverty.

THE EMPLOYER: The employer is given two clear commands governing how he is to treat those under them. The manager is to do the same things required of his laborers. He is to treat

Them as he expects to be treated. The manager must realize that he lives and works to serve the Lord with fear and trembling, to serve in singleness of heart, to serve not with eye service as men pleasers, to serve as servants of Christ from the heart, to serve with good will. The employer expects two things diligence and loyalty. The charge is the same for him be diligent n your management and loyal to your workers. That is with fair wages and job security. The manager is to withhold threats. Stern measures are to be a last resort; after all other measures are exhausted.

THE WARFARE OF THE CHRIATIAN BELIEVER 6:10-24

6:10-20: Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

The Armor of the Christian Soldier

Paul has been talking about the walk of he believer now suddenly he changes course. He declares another way to look at the Christian life. It is a battlefield we find ourselves in a struggle, an unceasing war. Our

calling is not to a life of enjoyment and ease, but of conflict. There are foes within and without.

The Soldiers Charge is in verses 10-11

There is a charge to the Christian soldier. It is Christian believers who need the charge, not the world. Believers must heed what is about to be said. Unless the charge is heeded he will cave in to temptation and sin and end up walking as most men. Not experiencing the joy of life, not experiencing the power, deliverance, care, concern, love and fellowship, being uncertain and unsure of the future.

The believer must be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Note three words used. “Strong” power, strength; “power” sovereign unlimited power; “might” force, ability. His ability to use these wisely is of up most importance in our Christian lives. These are not human abilities, but they are of and from the Lord.

Put on the whole armor of God. Once a believer is strong on the inside, then they are ready to put on the outer clothes. No amount of armor and weaponry is worth anything if the soldier does not have a heart to fight. To leave off any piece of armor is to leave one with a vulnerable spot. The armor is necessary to defend ones self from the enemy

The soldiers enemy; the Devil and his strategies in verse 11. The word “Wiles” means deceits, craftiness, trickery, and methods, which the devil uses to wage war against us.

There are the strategies that appeal to the lust of the eyes: delicious food -attractive persons --- possessions ----position – authority –power. Satan will present something so appealing the believer is doomed unless clothed in God’s armor for example and reference read the following passages John 8:44; Romans 6:16, 19; James 4:1-4; 1 John 2:15-16

A second method is to send a false teacher, a teacher that is impressive in oratory and seeming theology. We must never forget that Satan is transformed into a messenger of light. Not the cartoon type of red suit and horns. He has his own ministers that masquerade as ministers of righteousness. They proclaim human goodness and works, ego or self-image, self-improvement and correction; such messages appeal to the flesh of man. They cannot deliver man from the great trials of life read these passages 2 Corinthians 2:11, 13-15 Revelation 12:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

There is the warfare of the Christian soldier. This warfare is fought not in the hills and valleys of earth. Rather on the spiritual planes of our lives. “Wrestle” a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and is decided when one is able to press and hold the other. The point is this. Our foes are not human they are spiritual with unbelievable power. We fight against principalities, power, rulers, and spiritual wickedness. This reveals five things. First the forces of the devil are powerful. Second the forces of the devil are numerous- all words in the plural. Third the forces of the devil are organized into a hierarchy.

Fourth the forces of the devil are in control of the darkness, “darkness” here is ignorance of truth and reality such as what is the source of man and his world? What is the end of man and his world? Fifth the forces of evil are spiritual wickedness: they seek to receive loyalty and devotion due to God alone.

Some persons have always scoffed at the idea of a personal devil or demons. They feel they are too intelligent to believe such nonsense. But man is ever so conscious of – sub-conscious horrors that affects mind and body—unseen and uncontrolled forces that effect behavior – unregulated behavior—cosmic forces that determine behavior—blind fate that controls life. Think for a moment, of all the wickedness in the world. The evil of mankind consumes the news. Do we not know better, sure we do, this passage tells us why we do not do better. Luke 22:31; 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4; 1Peter 5:8

The forces are identified as follows: -- Principalities: the first ones, leaders—powers: demons in the lower atmosphere – rulers of the darkness: Satan and his demons—spiritual wickedness: the collective of evil forces.

Duty of the Christian Soldier is here in verse 13.

Our duty is to take the whole armor of God. As one preacher said, “there are far too many streaking Christians with nothing on but the helmet of salvation.” The believer needs the whole armor why? Because of the “evil day” what’s that you say? It refers to the day of unusual temptation and trial. It refers to the outpouring of evil as we see it today. It refers to any day or times that temptation and trials confront us. We must fight this, and we cannot without the proper preparation. Romans 13:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4; 1Timothy 6:12. There is the armor of the Christian soldier described in verses 14-17.

Paul was chained to Roman soldiers every day all day. Therefore he had a living picture of the armor needed by Christians.

First there is the “Belt of Truth” This belt was used to keep a soldier's clothing next to him. This allowed freedom of movement. The secondary purpose was to support and strengthen the body. The Christian has a belt of truth. Not truth individually thought out—not truth as a man or woman sees it –not truth found in a novel idea—not truth taught by religion. God alone can share the truth of abundant life. What is this truth; Christ is the truth, we are to put on Christ John 1:14; 14:6. Second the word of God is truth- put on the word John 17:17. Third speaking and living a life of truthfulness is truth 1 Peter 1:22; Zechariah 8:16; Malachi 2:6.

Truth does several things. First it keeps him from becoming entangled with life 2 Timothy 2:3, 4. Second it supports him in battles and trials of life John 14:6; Hebrews 2:17-18; Hebrews 4:15-16.

The breast plate of Righteousness

This covered the soldier from the neck to the thighs. Its main purpose was to protect the heart. Our heart focus is Christ and His righteousness, that focus must be protected. When a man is saved, God counts him righteous; we must protect this, by living righteously. The soldier is to strive after the very righteousness of Christ. He is to live righteously in this present world. Matthew 5:20; Romans 3; 21, 22; 1Corinthians 15:34; 2Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 1:11, 3:9; Titus 2:11, 12

The Sandals of the gospel.

The Roman soldier had marching sandals and fighting sandals. They were ready to march and could quickly change for battle. They were always ready. The fighting sandals had nails in them angled so they could dig in and stand firm even on slippery ground. The Christian likewise should be ready to go to the world and ready to give the gospel to any and all.

Lehman Strauss has a pertinent view of these shoes. "They are not the dancing slippers of the world, nor the lounge slippers of the slothful, but the shoes of a warrior, who knows and makes known Christ". Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 3:15.

The Shield of Faith in God.

This is not the small round fighting shield, but the 4 to 5 foot long shield that interlocked to form a turtle shell to ward off the fiery arrows dipped in pitch. Satan has his fiery darts that cause a believer to – question their salvation -- their call – if there worthy – if they can really serve – if the project can really be done – to doubt, wonder –to become discouraged, depressed, defeated – to burn with passion and desire. These assault the mind, fighting against our will. The sign of a soldier is his faith, that God will help God's very presence becomes our faith. Psalm 3:3-4; 33:20; 37:5; 84:9,11; 118; 8; Isaiah 26:3-4

The Helmet of Salvation

The helmet covered the head and the mind of the soldier. The head was and is the core of a soldier's power. His ability to think was vital to determining his victory or defeat. A strong durable helmet was vital. The Christian soldier has the strongest most durable of all, the helmet of salvation. We need our minds protected so we can maintain our focus in reaching our goals of giving the gospel to all. The saved mind is focused on Christ; because of this Satan launches his fiery darts. With the helmet we have the knowledge and hope of salvation. The unsaved person has no protection and his mind is focused on the earthly. It is normal for this person to – seek more and more – to taste and indulge –to possess more and more—to feel and experience – to have and hoard when others have little. Romans 8:6; 12:2; Philippians 4:8; Isaiah 59:16, 19.

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God

The sword was a weapon used for both defense and offense. The sign of the Christian soldier is his use of the Word. When one lives in the Scripture, they protect themselves from the onslaught of the evil ones, thereby winning victory after victory. Remember Jesus overcame the devil by the Word of God (Matt.4: 4, 7, and 10). The written word of God is the one weapon that guarantees victory, why? Because it is alive and active read these passages. Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16, 2:12, 16; Psalm 119:9, 11.

The Supernatural Provision: Prayer

There is to be a constant spirit of prayer. The soldier can enter the battle fully armed; however there is one more essential ingredient: confidence, assurance, and courage. These come from a Spirit of prayer. There are five essential elements about prayer here.

He must pray- always. A soldier who is not constant in the prayer life has no assurance of God's protection, the realization of God's presence and care. Matthew 7:7; Colossians 4:2 James 5:13; 1 Chronicles 16; 11

One must always pray "in the spirit" the Spirit of the one and only God. Romans 8:26, 27

The soldier must be "sleepless" in prayer. The soldier must concentrate and persevere in prayer even to the point of being sleepless--- sometimes being so intent in prayer that sleep is ignored Luke 22:26; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

The soldier must pray unselfishly. We need to remind ourselves often that we are not in the battle alone. The outcome of the battle is determined by the welfare of all. The soldier must pray for those who fight with him.

The soldier must pray for his leaders. Leaders, their decisions and example, often determine the outcome of the battle. The Christian soldier has leaders who teach, preach and administer throughout the church. Boldness and decisiveness; purity is needed to route the enemy and capture souls for the gospel Romans 15:30 Hebrews 13:17, 18

THE EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

6:21-24: But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts. Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

The Soldier Tychicus

He was a beloved brother: he believed in Christ and demonstrated that belief by loving those around him that's why others counted him a beloved brother. Acts 20:35; Romans 12:13; 1Timothy 6:17, 18; 1John 3:16

He was a faithful Minister; a man called and gifted by Christ to preach and to minister to peoples needs. He had a worldwide vision; he gave his life to that end. He was faithful; no slack, slumber, routines, slothfulness, complacency, neglect, questioning he did not fail. 1 Corinthians 4:2; 9:16

He befriended believers: a messenger of encouragement, Paul was in prison. The Ephesian' was concerned for him and he wanted them to know he was well. So he sent his dear friend to them. Tychicus gave up his ministry to carry the message to Ephesus. He was the ideal minister and messenger. Philippians 2; 3, 4; Luke 14:10; 22:26

The Soldier Paul 23, 24

A glimpse into Paul's heart can be gleaned from these verses. Paul was a spiritual brother to other believers. He had a real concern for their spiritual welfare. He invoked 'peace' upon them He invoked 'love' upon them He invoked "faith" upon them

Paul was a prayer warrior for other believers. He prayed for God's 'grace' to rest upon them. So concludes Paul's letter to the Ephesians Church.

APPENDIX A

Chapter 1: Election

Election is the God ward side of salvation. Election does not mean that some are chosen to be saved and others to be lost. Rom. 3:22-23. All have sinned and are equally in need of a Saviour. Whosoever accepts God's bona fide offer becomes one of the elect.

Signs of Election:

1. a consciousness of the new birth
2. the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life
3. a progressive sanctification

4. a consistent walk
5. a perseverance in the faith

Predestination

It means to destine, or to appoint before, to predetermine. God has predetermined that those who receive his Son will be conformed to the image of Christ. He has determined that each believer is to become or be placed as an adult child with all rights and privileges (Jn. 6:37-46).

Adoption

To place as a son with all the privileges and responsibilities that goes with that position. We are adopted because we believe in and trust Jesus Christ. God's purpose in adoption is that we might live forever – that we will live to the praise of the glory of His grace - Eph. 2:7, Rom. 8:28.

11 Mysteries

1. Mysteries of the kingdom - Mt. 13:3-50
2. Mysteries of Israel's blindness - Rom. 11:25
3. Mystery of the translation of the saints - I Cor. 15:51-52
4. Mystery of the New Testament church - Eph. 3:1-11, Rom. 16:25
5. Mystery of the church as the bride - Eph. 5:28-32
6. Mystery of the in living Christ - Gal. 2:20, Col. 1:26-27
7. Mystery of God even Christ – Christ the fullness of the Godhead - Col. 2:2-9
8. Mystery of the process of man's restoration - I Tim. 3:16
9. Mystery of iniquity - II Thess. 2:7
10. Mystery of the seven stars - Rev. 1:20
11. Mystery of Babylon - Rev. 17:3-7.