

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 5TH - 6TH, 2022 // BOOK OF EPHESIANS

### UNITY (EPHESIANS 4:1-6) "WALK WORTHY OF THE CALLING"

V1 refers back to everything mentioned in chapters 1-3. In light of all we've learned about grace and salvation, we're to "walk worthy" and **live like the people Jesus made us to be.**

- We're to be "prisoners of the Lord" because of the great price paid for our souls.

#### WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

To live "worthy" of salvation is to live in **humility, gentleness, patience, the willingness to love even if it is difficult, and in peace with non-believers, and in unity with other believers.**

- This is only possible when we live according to the Bible. First and foremost, we must strive for holiness.

#### THIS WILL YIELD UNITY

Paul wanted Christians to unify under the majors of the faith. In order to do this, they would have to have a strong relationship with Jesus, not be selfish, and make unity a priority.

- We must intentionally focus on the majors of the Word and build bridges with other Christians.

#### BECAUSE WE SERVE THE SAME GOD

The true Church is one body under the leading of one Spirit, called to one hope (the resurrection of Jesus). We believe in one Lord (Jesus), have one faith (hope from the cross), and enter into the family through one baptism.

- The exclusivity of Jesus and the infallibility of His Word are immovable doctrines.

#### WE WILL BE KNOWN BY OUR LOVE... (JOHN 13:35)

If we can work to build relationships with other Christians while avoiding the infiltration of heresy, we can be a light to the world around us.

- Churches getting past the minors and joining in the fight against evil and confusion would bless countless people around the world. This is God's desire.

### STANDING FIRM (EPHESIANS 4:7-16) JESUS' WORK EMPOWERS HIS FOLLOWERS

V8 is from Psalm 68 and was used by Jews to describe Moses getting the 10 Commandments. Paul uses it to remind us that Jesus has ascended after His resurrection and has shared the gifts of the Spirit (Ephesians 4; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12) with us.

- These gifts are distributed by God in His time and according to His wisdom.

#### CERTAIN GIFTS ENABLE US TO BUILD THE CHURCH

The gifts or roles of **apostle** (plants and oversees), **prophet** (miraculous foresight or communication of the Word), **evangelist** (gathering people), and **pastor and teacher** (shepherd, communicator) are to build the church.

- They're to "equip the saints" to grow in their faith and do "the work of the ministry."

#### "GROWING INTO MATURITY"

Jesus calls us to His standard of maturity. He isn't building rockstar pastors or lazy congregants. We are all called to humility and the work of advancing the gospel.

- When we submit to Christ and put our minds and hands to His business, we "will no longer be little children..."

#### "...TOSSED BY THE WAVES"

In light of how many Christians in America compromise their faith (or are just willingly ignorant of it), we can deduce that we are immature, arrogant, and complacent people.

- We're not to be a people blown in every direction by every cultural and spiritual trend. We are to be grounded in Jesus.

#### MATURE CHRISTIANS ALSO LOVE PROPERLY

Spiritually immature people either speak truth with no love, or they don't biblically love because they suppress the truth. **We're called to live in truth and love and display both.**

- Every part of the body (Church) is vital (v16), and all parts must learn to hold onto the truth and love others well.

### TO PROPERLY LIVE (EPHESIANS 4:17-24) A VERY EVIL SOCIETY

The Gentiles in Ephesus were extremely sinful. It was a **materialistic, pagan, and hypersexualized** culture. Paul tells the Christians in this area to "no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thoughts."

- American Christians are in the same tension. **We must live counter-cultural.**

#### "EXCLUDED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD"

People who live in sin are "darkened in their understanding" of truly living "because of the ignorance" and "hardness of their hearts."

- What we consume determines how we think. How we think determines how we live. **If we choose to think on evil things, darkness is the natural consequence.**

### CHOOSING TO LIVE IN DEATH

Paul says, "They became callous and gave themselves over to...every kind of impurity with a desire for more and more."

- Callouses take time to develop. **Negligence of God born from selfishness will lead to a degradation of the soul resulting in evil desires. This is a choice.**

### CRUCIFYING THE OLD SELF (ROMANS 6)

To be saved, have a relationship Jesus, and be changed we have to be willing "to take off [our] former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires."

- We have to want to have new attitudes, values, and actions. **We will not be perfect, but Jesus can transform who we are!**

### A NEW WAY (EPHESIANS 4:25-32)

#### HOW DO WE LIVE DIFFERENTLY?

Since we have been saved by grace through faith, we are called to live in a way that honors our Savior. First, **we are called to stop lying, be honest, and not be deceitful.**

- Christians are to be honest and genuine people who do not manipulate or deceive for personal gain.

#### CONTROLLING OUR ANGER

As Christians, we are allowed to get angry, but **we cannot sin in anger.** We must also deal with conflict in a biblical (Matthew 18) and timely (v26) manner.

- We also cannot let our emotions and feelings lead us (Jeremiah 17), but instead follow the Spirit.

#### WE'RE NOT TO STEAL, BUT EARN WHAT WE HAVE

This is a simple command from God, but we must remember that **taking anything that isn't ours from anyone else is wrong.** The sin of coveting is connected.

- It's also clear in Scripture that **able-bodied people are to work** (2 Thessalonians 3), but too often, we enable non-biblical behavior.

#### WE MUST ALSO WATCH OUR TONGUE

Paul says, "No foul language should come from [our] mouth." This includes offensive words, but is more about **gossip, backbiting, and slander.** **If this command were followed, 90% of our issues would cease to exist.**

- When we misuse our words, we "grieve" the Holy Spirit. **Speak with wisdom!**

#### PUTTING AWAY AND PUTTING ON

Christians are to put away four sins: **bitterness, anger and wrath** (extreme, vengeful), **shouting and slander** (destructive speech), and **malice** (the intention to do evil).

- Christians are to take on the overarching principles of **kindness, compassion, and forgiveness** like Christ has forgiven us.

### WALKING WORTHY OF OUR CALLING

- God has called us to a very high standard, but we are capable of living it out if we will trust and lean on Him.
- The question is not the standard of God, but if we're willing to accept His mission and purpose for us. **If we choose Jesus, we are choosing to live a high calling.**

### WE ARE NOT WHAT WE WERE

- Through salvation and sanctification, we're no longer infantile in our understanding.
- This means we are to **stand firm** through prayer, the Word, and seeking wisdom and strength through the Spirit and **not be rattled or confused by every passing cultural fad.**

### LOVING PEOPLE LIKE JESUS DOES

- We are also called to radically love. This means **we love ALL people by maintaining our biblical integrity and showing them grace, honor, and respect.**
- Christians are to be engaged in their world, displaying a different, pure, and biblical love to both lost and saved people.

### WE ARE CREATED FOR GREATER THINGS

- When we live in lust, anger, materialism, division, apathy, or any sin, we fail to understand who we were created to be.
- **Salvation is an identity change. God calls us to live in love and righteousness because we're His most valuable creation and are made in His image.**

### WE ARE CREATED FOR GREATER THINGS

- We were made for more than the shallow aspirations of this broken world.
- **Have we forgotten, or are we ignorant of, our true identity and value that can only be found in living in relationship with our Creator?**