

## Ephesians Overview

### Background:

- Ephesus was half-way between Jerusalem and Rome, was the approximate geographic center of the Roman Empire
- a beautiful resort city of 200,000, it was the chief city in Asia Minor, the religious and commercial center of the region
- before Christianity made an enormous impact in Ephesus, it was dominated by worship to Diana/Artemis, the fertility goddess. The temple to Diana, considered one of the wonders of the ancient world (also served as the “Bank of Asia”), was 4 times larger than the Parthenon in Athens. Around this temple were continually performed acts of gross immorality.
- the Ephesian church was founded by Apollos, who watered seeds sown by Paul during his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey (Acts 18:18-28)
- Paul returned during his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey and stayed 3 years (Acts 19:1, 8-10; 20:31)
- The Church grew into a strong body...a center of evangelism
- while in Ephesus, Paul wrote 2 letters to the church in Corinth (1 Cor 16:8-9)
- Paul’s farewell address to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17-38) effectively prepared them for their near-term future of an onslaught of false teachers. They understood that the enemies of the Church are from within, not just from outside and responded accordingly.
- consider the preachers that lived in Ephesus!  
Paul, Apollos, John, Timothy (1 Tim 1:3)
- John retired there and wrote his Gospel and Epistles
- As their pastor, John counseled them in regard to false teachers also (1 John 4:1-3, 2 John 10)
- Mary, the mother of Jesus, died there and Timothy was martyred there
- at least 3 letters in the NT written to Ephesus
  - Ephesians by Paul
  - 1 John by John
  - Rev 2:1-7 by Jesus (“Ephesus” = “Darling”)

Paul’s letter was written in about 64 AD, while he was in Rome in prison awaiting a trial before Nero, (to whom Paul had appealed his case in Acts 25:11)...and like the other “prison epistles”, written with the joy of the Lord, filled with the Holy Spirit

One of 4 epistles written by Paul while in a Roman prison. Taken together, the 4 make a composite message of how to live a Christian life

1. Ephesians: the mystery of the Church with Christ as its Head
2. Colossians: Christ, the Head of the Body, the Church
3. Philippians: Christian living with Christ as the power to do so
4. Philemon: Christian living in action in a pagan society

After the rebuke of legalism and religion in Galatians, we move on to how to live this life in relationship with Christ

There are a number of ways to outline this book, all of which can assist in studying it

Outline I:

Ch 1-3	riches in Christ...what Christ has done on our behalf
Ch 4-6	responsibilities in Christ...how we are to respond to what Christ has done on our behalf

Outline II

Ch 1-3	wealth of the Christian
Ch 4-5	Walk of the Christian
Ch 6	warfare of the Christian

Outline III Battle Plan for the Christian

Ch 1-3	Sit with Christ
Ch 4-5	Walk in Christ
Ch 6	Stand in Christ

Outline IV The Church

Ch 1	likened to a	Body
Ch 2		Temple
Ch 3		Mystery
Ch 4		New Man
Ch 5		Bride
Ch 6		Soldier

it is very important to know who we are (Ch 1-3) so we can be who we are (Ch 4-6)

By the instruction of the Holy Spirit in this book we learn how to be

- Husbands
- Wives
- Parents
- Children
- Friends
- Employees
- Warriors

that Jesus intends us to be

# Ephesians

## Chapter 1

### Repeated words and phrases

- in Christ/in Him/thru Him (v3, 10, 10, 12, 13, 13, 15, 17, 20)
- chosen/predestined (v4, 5, 11)
- good pleasure (v5,9)
- praise of His glory of grace (v6, 12, 14)
- inheritance (v11, 14, 18)
- purpose/purposed (v9, 11)
- will
- trusted (v12, 13)
- saints
- riches

v1 apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God:

Paul was an apostle against his will.

It took a blinding and arresting experience with the resurrected and glorified Jesus Himself to get his will aligned with God's now Paul accepts God's will in his life...even in prison  
He had God's perspective on this life (Ch 3:1)

I am a servant of God by His will, not mine

God has a purpose for all of our lives...we to accept it and keep His perspective

saints and faithful:

letter written for the saints in Ephesus and the many other faithful in the places other than Ephesus i.e. the Church-at-large, including you and me

the saints are all those who are born-again...regardless of well they are walking with Christ

“saint” is a designation God gives man, not one that man gives men who pass some “super believer” test after they die

- you are sitting next to a saint
- you are married to a saint...remember that!

God calls them and us “faithful”! Astounding!

But that is how He sees those who are “in Christ”

v2 Grace...and peace:

once again, as is true in every letter from Paul, the “Siamese twins” greet us...in this order

and the “from is also critical for only from God the Father and the Lord Jesus can we receive those priceless treasures

v3 Blessed:

“To be spoken well of”, not “happy” as in the Beatitudes

has blessed us with all:

past tense! Because the work of salvation is finished

John 19:30

spiritual blessings (vs material things that rust, are lost, get stolen) are the very best gifts for they are eternal...and they express the very heart and nature of God (John 4:24)

Matt 6:33 seek ye first the kingdom of God and all...

1 Tim 6:9

James 1:17 every good and perfect gift is from above

but there is a condition: they belong to only those who have put their faith in the Lord Jesus, God the Son...

the best gifts are not for atheists, or the self-righteous, or the deceived

ie not for the majority of men (Matt 7:13-14)

this should give us both great joy...and...a great burden to seek and save the lost

“all” spiritual blessings? “But I’m not done serving the Lord yet!”

the spiritual blessings are framed in the next several verses

v4-6 chosen us...predestinate:

the saved are chosen people – just as Israel is a chosen people, created by God to reveal Himself to all men – chosen to be a new creature, the Church, the Bride of Christ

key questions regarding being chosen:

- **WHO** is chosen? The saints and the faithful (v1)
- **WHERE** are the chosen? “In Christ” (v4)
- **WHEN** were we chosen? BEFORE Gen 1:1...not when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior (v4, 5)
- **WHAT** are we chosen for? To be holy (separate) and acceptable (righteous) and blameless (perfect) children in the Father’s eyes (v4, 5, 6)
- **WHY** are we chosen? It is His love and His good pleasure and His glory to do so (v4, 5, 6)
- **HOW** are we chosen? By God’s grace...they only way any of this is possible for a holy and just God. God’s love is the beginning and the end...our everything (v6, Rom 5:8, 1 John 4:19)

**WHEN** are we chosen...

we see “predestinate” in v5, 11  
= “to determine in advance, to ordain before”  
chosen in advance by the all-knowing God  
God, in His foreknowledge knew how all things would end before He  
even started them

A division exists today in the Body of Christ over the doctrines of  
Predestination (Election) and Free Will

- Does God save some (the elect) and condemn others (the damned)? Did God choose to save some and condemn others before He even created man?
- Does every man have an opportunity to exercise his free will regarding Jesus Christ?

Predestination:

Election is a sovereign act of God – He is under no moral  
obligation to save any for all have sinned and fallen short  
of the glory of God

Salvation is an act of grace, given to those who are utterly  
unworthy of it

God chose them “in Christ” (Eph 1:4)

Free Will:

In response to the revelation God has given him, man is  
responsible for accepting God’s offer of salvation by grace  
thru faith in Jesus Christ...man must exercise the measure  
of faith God has given him (Rom 12:3)

So who chooses? The Church debate assumes “one choice”

How do we reconcile these seemingly contradictory doctrines?

God chooses...yet salvation depends on my choice?

How do I reconcile that?

Which is true – predestination (the sovereignty of God...God chooses)  
or free will (the responsibility of man...man chooses)?

Both are true...The Word of God teaches both

Spurgeon: “I never try to reconcile friends.”

The doctrines of God’s election and man’s free will are friends, not  
contestants

There are parallel tracks thru the Bible (from Gen to Rev)

1. the sovereignty of God
2. the responsibility of man

the 2 tracks never intersect – they are both true

so we must stay in balance between the 2 tracks

- the extremes are error (only one is true)  
“the sovereignty of God without the responsibility of man”  
is not true  
“the responsibility of man without the sovereignty of God”  
is not true either
- any truth out of balance is not true

God is all-knowing and is outside the time dimension – He sees the beginning from the end

in His foreknowledge, God foresaw all who would choose to accept His offer of salvation (the offer is given to “whosoever”)...and He chose to save them

He chose in Christ all He foreknew would accept His terms and conditions – Jesus Christ, God Almighty the Son, and Him crucified

But in our finite-ness, so many say, That’s not fair!”

Trying to think rationally...what is not fair about God choosing?

- You choose your friends, don’t you? So does God.  
I’m just glad he chose me!
- If someone chose to reject Jesus as Lord and Savior, would it not be cruel of God to force that man to spend eternity with someone he hated?
- If you knew everything like God does...and if you went to the horse track to bet on the horses...would you bet on the losers or the winners? God picks all the winners.  
He chose me, He thinks I’m a winner!
- God choosing is not remarkable...that He has chosen us is remarkable

The finite minds of man cannot grasp the thoughts of an infinite God to “tackle this problem”

Solution: Rather than laboring to intellectually sort this “problem” out,

- take a step of faith and chose to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord...and...
- make the eye-opening discovery that you were chosen by Him before the foundations of the world (v17)...
- because He knew you would make that choice!

“When was I chosen?”...What does that mean to me today?

- God had a plan for my life before He even created the universe...
- all my problems were solved by the all-powerful God before Gen 1:1
- I can walk in victory today!

## WHAT we are chosen for...

God has chosen us “once and for all” (verb tense), not “depending”  
He didn’t choose the holy and blameless...He chose us to be holy and  
blameless!

He does the work to make us holy and blameless...as He looks lovingly at  
us because He is able to see the end result of His work (potter)

### adoption:

Matthew’s question this week– “Dad, why are kids adopted?”

A: “When something terrible/tragic/traumatic happens

- both parents killed in a car crash or in a war
- when neither parent wants them or cannot provide for them

Then someone who loves them...chooses them...comes along and makes  
them their child so they can love and provide for them

So even though something bad happens, there is a happy ending.”

the Bible says we are God’s adopted children...how did that happen?

Something bad happened: our parents died...by an imperfect choice in a  
perfect environment...and as a result we were born imperfect...  
dead in our sins

happy ending: But God made possible a correcting perfect choice...and  
we chose perfectly. So God has chosen us...it was His pleasure to  
adopt us! (John 1:12-13)

Note: is why Jesus said in John 16 that He would not leave us orphans

## WHY are we chosen...

### good pleasure of His will:

God has heart-felt emotion toward us

Rev 4:11 includes me!

The God of the universe is pleased to have a relationship with us!

Sin broke God’s fellowship with man...but the blood of God’s Son  
restores God’s fellowship with man

He created us to fellowship with Him...He finds pleasure in us!

Rev 21:3-4

His thoughts of us are those of good pleasure...we need to KNOW

2 Sam 14:14b

Ps 103:8-14

Ps 139:17-18

Jer 29:11 (with Rom 15:4 and 1 Cor 10:11)

Lam 3:22-26

Hosea 2:19-20

1 Cor 2:9

Eph 3:20

2 Tim 1:9-12

he has made:

the bottom line on my salvation – it is because of

- God's love
- God's good pleasure
- God's work
- God's grace
- God's choice

And it is for God's glory

2 Thes 2:13

v7 in whom we have redemption...forgiveness...

the gift of salvation thru Jesus, for which God gets the glory is:

- fallen man's redemption – purchase from the slave market in order to be set free
- forgiveness of all offenses against Him

the price of the gift (my greatest need!): the blood of His own Son

1 Peter 1:18-20

the reasoning of Scripture regarding the plan of redemption

- the wages of sin is death
- all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God
- life is required as payment for the penalty
- life is in the blood
- blood, therefore, is required
- only the innocent blood of one life could act as a substitute for another
- the innocent blood of God had to be shed as a substitute for all
- the innocent blood of God was shed; now our High Priest is sitting for His work is done
- the next move is man's – to respond to God's initiative
- God has chosen those who respond



v8-10 abounded:

super abundance, overflowing  
where sin abounds, grace does much more abound....  
and so does wisdom and moral insight

having made known unto us the mystery of his will:

a mystery is something previously unknown that God has revealed  
Because I know Jesus Christ is real, I know

- Where I came from (Genesis tells me)
- Why I am here now – to love, serve, be in fellowship...
- Where I am going (Revelation tells me)

God has revealed to me His will for me – to be made accepted in the  
beloved (v6)  
the real mystery of His will is...Why me?

according to His good pleasure:

Why me?

It is His good pleasure to do so!

Phil 2:13 it is God that works in you both to will and  
to do His good pleasure

And then...right on schedule, He is going to gather again all things  
in His promised Christ, His beloved Son...

And then...Is 66:1-2, 5, 10, 13, 18, 22

Rev 21:1

God will do Creation all over again in front of our eyes...  
we will be eyewitnesses of “Gen 1, Take 2”

God chose us from the foundation of this world...to witness the  
foundation of the next world!

1 Cor 2:9-10

Rom 8:18 reckon the suffering of this present times are  
not worthy to be compared with the glory  
which shall be revealed in us

this is His pleasure for me!

v11 we have obtained an inheritance:

given an inheritance

- Eternal life in relationship with Him
- all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (v3, an heir of God!)

predestinated:

He chose me because He knew that I would choose Jesus (1 Peter 1:2)

all things:

God is sovereign, in control of everything at all times, never surprised  
My life is never out of control...just out of my control  
My choices are in the plan of God...even when they are not God's choices

v12 we should be to the praise of His glory

“That we, who hoped before in Christ, should be to the praise of His glory.”

Phil 2:5-11 those that do so while they have breath...

why has a sovereign God given us (before Gen 1:1) such an inheritance?

- That we (who of our free will choose to put our trust/faith in His Son) would be a “praise report” of His Son Jesus
- That His Son would receive glory  
Rev 5:9-14

Bottom line: We are a love gift from the Father to His Son  
John 17:9-11 with Eph 5:31-32

That is our position before God – in Christ

v13-14 sealed with that Holy Spirit...which is the earnest  
now we see God the Holy Spirit’s participation in our salvation

by the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the children of God (v5):

1. Ears opened...heard the Word of God (Rom 10:11-17)
2. Eyes opened...being convicted, have agreed with God and have trusted (“hope”) in Jesus
3. Hearts opened...have believed (“committed”) in Jesus
4. sealed

sealed:

Ephesus was a major seaport...

...crawling with merchants buying & selling, shipping & receiving

when they purchased goods, the merchants would wrap them up and seal them, identifying them as their merchandise

the seal was the stamp of ownership

Ephesus was also Asia’s primary banking center...

...papered with legal documents that had been sealed

the born again are purchased by the blood of God the Son, Jesus Christ...and sealed by God the Holy Spirit  
the Holy Spirit is the Father's

1. down payment
2. 1<sup>st</sup> installment of a far greater reality  
not like a "lay away" purchase that can be undone,  
this is a done deal waiting until the "closing papers are signed" ala a real estate transaction (Eph 4:30, Rev 4-5)
3. stamp of ownership (2 Cor 1:21-22, Rev 7)
4. engagement ring (2 Cor 11:2...have espoused you to one husband...present you a chaste virgin to Christ)

One day soon...on the appointed day...the Lord is going to return to claim the goods He has purchased...He is going to collect His Bride

the Holy Spirit is the "documentation" proclaiming God's intent to complete the transaction

Phil 1:6

that which is sealed cannot be corrupted from without  
John 10:27-30

We are not Ziploc-ed or hermetically sealed like a Mason jar of grandma's strawberry preservatives, but spiritually sealed by the power of God (an unbreakable seal)

This is the same Greek word as "bound" in Rev 20:1-3  
Satan is sealed...and he has no power to authority to break that seal...in 1000 years he is loosed  
that seal is on me and every other born-again believer!  
Satan cannot break it  
Neither my flesh nor the world can break it  
My salvation is secured by the power and authority of God  
We cannot even walk away from Jesus – when we walk in the flesh we are miserable until we confess and repent  
backsliders have not lost their salvation...they are just miserable Christians!

Looking back, in opening his letter to the Ephesians, Paul in v3-14 is really proclaiming, in one long run-on sentence, one great big "PTL!" for Who He is and what He has done

...and it has a distinct structure regarding salvation

<u>verse</u>	<u>Work of</u>	<u>What</u>
3-6	Father	His will...His choice
7-12	Son	His work
13-14	Holy Spirit	His seal...His guarantee

v15-16 I also...giving thanks:  
"I also PTL for you."

PTL...while in prison!

Since we are "in Christ", we can always give thanks regardless of  
our earthly circumstances

their faith in Jesus and their love for other believers inspired Paul to thank  
the Lord for His work in them and to pray for them (v17-23)

v17-19 spirit of wisdom and revelation:

Paul's intercessory prayer for me and you – that the Father give me:

1. wisdom

from His Word (Prov 1:1-7)

from His Spirit (Is 11:1-2)

2. revelation in the knowledge of Him

God reveals Himself to His chosen

- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...
- Moses in the burning bush...
- Israel at the Red Sea and Mt Sinai...
- Joshua before Jericho was given...
- Paul on the road to Damascus...
- You and me by His Son Jesus

Luke 10:22

John 6:44

God reveals what He is doing to His chosen

Gen 18:17

Amos 3:7 do nothing but reveal to his servants

His Word to you and me (1 John 2:27)

our natural mind cannot comprehend God

We must have a spiritual revelation in order to know God

1 Cor 2:10-14

revelation is the only way I can see His thoughts and His  
ways (Is 55:8-9)

world

do, then it gets done ...

work, then retire ...

start, then finish ...

The Word of God

it is done, now go do

retire/quit, now go to work

it is finished, now get  
started

3. understanding  
enlightenment comes from wisdom and revelation  
For the 1400 years from 450 AD to 1950, most of all  
technical, medical, and scientific advances have  
been made by born-again Christians.  
Are Christians innately more intelligent? No way!  
But Christians know the Designer of the universe and can  
see His design and His fingerprints on all things  
DNA, dinosaur find
4. to know His hope  
world's hope = wishful thinking...“maybe...”  
Christian's hope = acknowledgment of an established fact  
...a reality...a certainty  
v12, 13, Titus 2:13
5. to know the riches of His inheritance  
v3, 8-10  
Heb 11:24-27  
Rev 21-22
6. to know His great power working in and thru my life  
The power over sin...  
The power over Satan...  
The power over the flesh...  
The power over death...  
The power that raised Jesus from the dead...

Key: Faith

1:20-23 in the heavenly places...:

His power transcends all of creation...is eternal

this is an all-inclusive set of parameters...nothing can be excluded

spiritual blessings in heavenly places for the Body of Christ (v3)

the last two Mid Week Thoughts (of Walking Around Naked and  
of Blood) broached the idea

If did not get, is on web site (Devotionals)

Summary of "Blood":

- Before His incarnation, Jesus did not have blood...did not need blood because the Spirit was the medium of life
- After His resurrection, He did not have blood...for same reason
- Only during His walk amongst us for 33.5 years did He have blood...because he needed it to shed on our behalf...since blood is the medium of our life

Taking that truth further, consider

1 Cor 15:50 (flesh and blood)

with

Luke 24:39 and Eph 5:30 (flesh and bone)

John 14:1-3 mansion = glorified body

Our eternal, heavenly body is different than this one

I wonder what kind of a body Adam and Eve had before the fall

Gen 2:23

Perhaps they were clothed in light...that darkened when they sinned

perhaps the original medium of life was Spirit and not blood...but became blood with the fall

with the "downgrade" in the medium of life, they lost access to the presence of God (reverse 1 Cor 15:52)

so when Jesus comes to the clouds for His Bride, we are supernaturally changed (back) in the twinkling of an eye

1 Cor 15:52

the Spirit again becomes the medium of life instead of blood...and we can again enter into the very presence of God

all things in v17-19 are possible and all blessings are given because God has done them in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

this is how far Jesus was raised...and we will be raised with Him!

fed up with this world? Hold on (to Jesus)...there is a new one coming!

All things will be under foot...of the King of kings

Heb 2:8 (i.e. not yet, still future)

Redemption and salvation involves

- His sovereignty
- Our choice
- His choice
- His foreknowledge of all choices
- His work
- His Son
- His blood
- His grace
- His purpose
- His pleasure
- His riches
- His glory
- His love

He has done it all...all you need to do is make a choice...  
So, what will it be?

## Ephesians Chapter 2

Paul is enraptured with God's grace, the riches we have in Christ Jesus.

He wants to tell the Ephesians and us all about it

But so that we appreciate the awesome glory of God's grace, he first paints a very dark background...you and me without Jesus

Paul establishes a baseline by describing our pre-Christ condition

if you are not born-again, then this describes your present condition

v1 dead in trespasses and sins:

sin = missing the mark, unintentional weakness or shortcoming

trespass = willful and deliberate disobedience, a direct challenge to the authority of God

regardless...the result of both sin and trespass is the same – spiritual death  
out of fellowship with God

the Word of God says:

- the soul that sins will surely die...
- the wages of sin is death

only 2 men have been born spiritually alive

1. Adam
2. Jesus – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam

As for the rest of us, we were born with our inheritance from Adam – death

In Gen 1, God created (*bara*, something out of nothing) 3 times

1. heaven and earth (v1)  
plants (**physical life**) came from the earth (v11-12)
2. animals (v21)

a higher order of life than plants with

- a consciousness
- an awareness of self (self-centered)
- “a breathing creature” (Heb. for soul)

(**emotional life**)

3. man (v27, Gen 2:7)

a higher still order of life than animals with

- an awareness of God (God-centered)
- a living spirit (Gr. for soul)

(**spiritual life**)

When Adam fell, he died spiritually...and the highest order of life “fell” to that of an animal – which is why natural man so easily believes we evolved from other animals, that man is a higher order of animal but that is not true – man is a fallen image of God



Back to the problem:

- we are born dead spiritually by the sin of Adam...born with a broken relationship with God...behind the 8-ball, as it were
- we were born “on the horns of a dilemma”  
the dead cannot make themselves alive...  
the blind cannot make themselves see...  
he who is not aware of God cannot seek and find God
- outside help is desperately needed

that is why all men must be born again, born by the Spirit of God, if they to enter into the kingdom of God

John 3:3-7

Only God can make alive that which is dead...spiritual birth can only be done by God...a “re-creation” of Gen 2:7...hence the born-again are called new creatures in Christ

When man is born-again, his life gets “kicked up a notch” and spiritual life becomes the dominant life once again

our condition without Jesus Christ – dead in our sins and trespasses

v2 walked according to the course of this world:

walked:

- lifestyle
- how one conducts one’s life
- the rules by which one’s life is regulated
- “To meander”, wandering without a destination, being blown without any direction...’No Rules’

according to: “held down” (NOT free) by Satan, the prince of the power of the air...air pollution at its worst  
and you thought smoking was hazardous to your health!

the course of this world: the way of the world is Satan’s way  
with the fall came God’s curses (serpent, earth, man) and the cursed earth was forfeited to the cursed devil

2 Cor 4:-14

Eph 6:10-12

Why Rev 16:17 is the last bowl of God’s wrath

Why Rev 21:1-5 is necessary

the lost...physically and emotionally alive but spiritually dead...  
are meandering...wandering aimlessly around with “No Rules”, without any meaningful purpose to their lives...  
and they do so with a strut of arrogance and defiance of God

Worketh in: energizes

there are only 2 kinds of children in the world:

- children of obedience – energized by God
- children of disobedience – energized by Satan  
disobedient = “obstinate unbelief”

obedience is a choice laid before man...we choose our eternal family.

<u>Obedience</u>	<u>Disobedience</u>
Noah + 7	all others
Job	
Abraham	
Jacob	Esau
Moses	Pharoah
David	Saul
Josiah	Ahab
John	Judas
Paul	Pharisees

The spiritually alive are obedient...(John 6:28-29)

- Walking by faith
- Denying themselves
- Loving their neighbor
- Loving their enemies
- Turning the other cheek

...living directed, fruitful, purposeful lives energized by God

The spiritually dead, the children of disobedience, are fruit of their father

- disobedient
- liars
- murders
- proud
- self-centered (no different than an animal)
- hate Jesus Christ

John 8:19, 23-24, 38-44

...living aimless, barren, wasted lives energized by Satan  
by heaven's fallen worship leader (Ezk 28:12-17)

Note: music is a very powerful medium of expression  
Used by God...or used by the devil  
Listen to your kid's music, read the lyrics!

a very bleak picture...but it gets worse

v3 also we had our conversation in times past:

“Before the Father drew us to His Son and the Son revealed the Father to us, we too were children of disobedience. We too lived in this world by the devil’s rules.”

Before Jesus saved me, I led an aimless, barren, wasted life...not using my head for much more than a hat rack...seeking to fulfill the lusts of my flesh

Can anybody relate?

Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and the mind:

life in the world is that of seeking pleasure (for one’s self vs seeking God) and indulgence (vs denial) of the flesh in all its evil desires.

The children of disobedience...of which all of us were once...lived to fulfill the lusts of the flesh

Lust: a forbidden desire...forbidden by God because He knows it looks/feels/tastes good, but it is really destructive and lethal.

Trouble always starts as fun, but then...

lust starts in the mind with temptation that is entertained and snowballs into an avalanche

The battleground in the spiritual warfare raging all around us is in our minds

Rom 12:1-2

By nature the children of wrath:

the spiritually dead have only the nature of the flesh...they have no choices, no freedom (are deceived into thinking they are free)

Self-centered, lust-driven, obstinately unbelieving man energized by Satan will feel the wrath (“vengeance and indignation”) of God

Col 1:21

Heb 10:30-31

The picture of our reality...helpless, hopeless

v4-5 BUT God:

...the most wonderful phrase in the Bible!!!!!!

“Forget about everything we just talked about...because God is now on the scene to rescue us!”

Let's read these 2 verses structurally

“But God has quickened us together with Christ.”

Qualified by

- “Who is rich in mercy”  
dead in my sin...but God intervened on my behalf, not willing that I should perish  
Lam 3:22-23
- “For his great love wherewith he loved us”  
1 John 4:10
- “Even when we were dead in our sins”  
Rom 5:8

there can be no doubt whatsoever that God loves you  
not because you are lovely or lovable...  
but because it is His nature  
1 John 4:8

“But God...”

The whole point of Ch 1-3 – God loves you  
the whole point of the entire Bible – God loves you  
Gen 6:5...But God (Gen 6:8)  
Jer 17:9...But God  
Rom 3:10, 23...But God  
Rom 7:18-19...But God

The God of the Living does not hang out with dead men...which was all men

But God...made us alive when we were dead and completely incapable of life...hopelessly dead. (2 Cor 4:6)

We did not come to life and then God loved us, God loved dead, stinky you and me.

He loved us to the point of death, even death on the Cross.

He died to give us His life, sent by His Spirit

He did this while we were still repulsive sinners and dead in our sins.

He didn't wait until we cleaned up our lives...only He can clean up our lives.

v2-3 was us...until God the Holy Spirit made alive our dead spirits when  
we unconditionally surrendered to God the Son

Then we received

- His life
- His nature
- His freedom (John 8:32, 36)
- His seal

those who live in the world are object's of God's wrath.  
Conversely, 1 Thes 1:10

My once aimless, barren, and wasted life energized by Satan was  
supernaturally transformed into a directed, fruitful, purposeful life  
energized by God!

Only able to go with the flow of the world, I was suddenly empowered to  
go against the flow

How can "But God..." be so?

By grace you are saved

Grace...only Grace...totally grace!

And that's the Gospel, the Good News!

v6 raised us up together...sit together:

salvation came to us by

- God's nature – love and grace
- God's work – died and quickened
- God's choice – purpose
- God's initiative

All we brought to the table was sin and death

We were taken from the deepest depths of hell to the highest heights of  
heaven...a one-way trip lovingly paid for by the blood of Jesus  
Christ

ala Joseph's trip – from the depths of an Egyptian prison to the very  
throne of Egypt

God raised Jesus to heaven, so shall He raise us out of the pit of hell right  
into His presence

Eph 1:3, 20-23

Rom 8:14-17

Review: But God....

Paul now starts to develop his thought summarized in Ch 1:3

v7 That in the ages to come...shew...toward us:

God has already shown us an indescribable grace...and He is only getting started!

What He is going to show us in His kingdom, in wave after wave of His grace, will far surpass what He has given us here...we cannot even imagine with our finite minds

we will not be able to grasp this verse on this side of eternity...and maybe not even then as He reveals His kindness toward us for all eternity...as the Infinite for all eternity reveals His goodness and glory to His finite creatures...who never approach Infinite

So how loudly do the words of Jesus ring in Matt 16:26!

exceeding...let's look at another "explosive" word

John 13:1 end = uttermost

Heb 7:25

How do you measure this...define this?!!

How far would Jesus go to love me and to save me?

How do we measure the exceeding riches we have in Him?

It cannot be measured...any more than I can touch the horizon

I cannot catch up to the love God has for me, nor could I ever go beyond it!

Nothing in my life, no matter how serious, can ever approach the uttermost of God, the God of ALL comfort

v8-9 saved by grace thru faith...so no man can boast:

it is by that grace that saves us from eternal death...God's unmerited favor given to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ

"The Cross did not happen to Jesus: He came on purpose for it.

The center of salvation is the cross of Jesus, and the reason it is so easy to obtain salvation is because it cost God so much."

Oswald Chambers

Jesus Christ saves me, not

- baptism
- my good works
- going to church
- tithing
- anything I can do (Matt 19:26, impossible for man, but...)

salvation is the gift of God:

- His grace showered up wretches...
- Touching the faith He has given every man (Rom 12:3)...
- Resulting in saving faith...submission and obedience...
- Making possible peace and a restored relationship with God...
- Because my debt has been Paid-in-Full...
- By the finished work of Jesus Christ (John 19:30, Phil 1:6)...
- Giving me eternal life

lest any man should boast:  
should (ever) boast

neither saved nor unsaved do anything worthy of bragging to Jesus  
the ground is very level at the foot of the cross!

There will be no boasting at either

- the judgment of rewards (of the saved, 1 Cor 3:10-15)  
or
- the judgement of works (of the unsaved, Rev 20:11-15)

Can you imagine how miserable a place heaven would be if every man  
could boast in himself!?

Everyone would be clamoring of how wonderful they are...but no one  
would be listening because all are clamoring about themselves

The only boasting to be heard will be that in Jesus Christ

2 Cor 10:17 him that glories, let him glory in the Lord

Jer 9:23-24

Ps 44:6-8

The kingdom of God will be a glorious PLT session

Ps 37:39 the salvation of the righteous is the LORD

Ps 62:1-2 He only is my rock and my salvation

v10 his workmanship:

none of us are self-made saints who pulled ourselves up out of the pit of hell by our bootstraps and made something of our lives.

The only things we of ourselves make are

- corruption
- destruction
- blasphemies
- confusion
- sin
- death

our conversion/transformation is a work, God's work not our own...  
and all the good in and thru our lives from that point forward is also God's work.

We cannot claim any credit for any thing...we are not to take any of the glory for any thing.

Therefore, we will proclaim what God has done for us, in us, and thru us...we will not proclaim "what we are doing for God"

Created unto good works...that we should walk in them:

Created from nothing...to do His work

The good works in our lives are ordained by God...accomplished by God...used by God.

John 15:13-16 chosen to bear fruit

1 Cor 1:27 this aimless, barren, wasted life is transformed!

What are good works?

- Helping hurting people with no personal agenda, only love
- Praying with and for people
- Going the "2<sup>nd</sup> mile"

good works are the evidence of a saving faith, not the means of salvation

James 2:14-26

saving faith:

- Know the truth (head knowledge)
- Submit to the truth (denial of self)
- Love the truth (heart knowledge)
- Live the truth (put it to our feet, action)

we are not saved by our good works...good works is evidence of my being saved

God initiates, I respond

works are my response of appreciation for God's love and grace

My response to God's love and grace is seen in my works...which reflect my heart



God has prepared these works to do thru me...to accomplish His purposes.  
I fit into God's plan!  
My life has purpose and meaning because God wants to use me!  
He wants to express Himself in me and thru me!  
Matt 5:13-16                      we are salt and light of the world

He took us out of a hopeless, pain-filled world...quickened us, healed us,  
cleansed us, empowered us, and sent us...back into that world so  
we could say, "I once was \_\_\_\_\_ also, **BUT God, BUT Jesus**  
Christ..."  
2 Cor 1:3-4

v11-12    Wherefore remember...that you were:  
"Because of all this, remember..."

We Gentiles are instructed to remember that we once were in a terrible  
place:

- dead in our sins and trespasses
- without the Messiah
- outside the fellowship and intimacy with God available to the citizens of Israel
- completely ignorant of God's promises thru the nation of Israel
- without hope, without any expectation of a coming good...
- God-less in a dark, dangerous, and dead world

Why must we remember?

- To remain humble and God-centered vs the way we were...self-centered, proud, and self-righteousness
- To appreciate the glorious place we now find ourselves

v13    **BUT NOW:**

...that beautiful phrase again as God intervenes again!  
what glorious hope lies in this one small word!

John 3:16...we have been grafted into His chosen people (Rom 11)  
The blood of Jesus has closed the great gulf between God and us and has  
drawn us close to God

Note: God draws us close, we do not earn "closeness"

God is God of all men, Jew or Gentile, male or female, free or bond  
Is 49:6  
Is 60:1-3  
1 Cor 12:13  
Col 3:11

v14 He is our peace:  
by the work of the Prince of Peace (Is 9:6), we have peace with God  
(Rom 5:1) and are called the children of God (Matt 5:9)  
by the work of the Prince of Peace that overcomes death, we have peace in  
this dark, dangerous, and dead world (John 16:33)...a peace that  
passes all understanding (Phil 4:7)

broken down the middle wall:  
the image is the Temple with its wall separating the Court of the Gentiles  
from the Inner Court

Jesus has mingled “oil and water”...Jew and Gentile...into one Body

Note: man corrupts everything God gives him...Jesus broke down the  
wall separating Jew from Gentile...man has erected walls  
of separation (denominations, races, nationalities...)  
the Church must not focus on denominations but on The Common  
Denominator...Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body

v15-16 abolished in his flesh the enmity:

2 Cor 5:21

Gal 3:13

from the Declaration of War (Gen 3:15) to V-J Day (1 Cor 15:54b-57),  
Jesus made peace possible between God and His enemies – us  
the Prince of Peace delivered the peace we enjoy

to defeat death, Jesus had to die

the cross unifies...all men into one of two camps

- those who believe into the Body of Christ
- those who refuse to believe to wage war against Him and His

v17 preached peace...afar off and...nigh:

of all the apostles, Paul is the one with the clear revelation of the Church,  
the Bride of Christ, both Jew and Gentile, for whom Jesus came  
with the Good News of peace with God by His grace

Luke 4:24-28

John 10:14-16

The Gospel, the Good News, is the only Way to establish peace between  
man and God, between Creator and rebellious creature

by His love, Jesus transforms enemies into children

Eph 2:3

v18 have access...unto the Father:  
thru Jesus Christ...and no other e.g. Mary or the "saints"...we have  
access to God the Father  
1 Tim 2:5 one mediator between God and man, Jesus  
Matt 27:51 ...He is The High Priest for all men  
Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace  
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in  
the time of need

Ever want God's help?  
man of flesh has no access to God but born-again (in spirit) man sure  
does!

Note: the Trinity is present

v19 strangers:  
guests...tourists

foreigners:  
alien residents...holder of a "Green card"

neither have the rights and privileges...and responsibilities...of citizenship  
But God...we are no longer estranged!

- We've been "naturalized" in the kingdom of God,
- we've been given citizenship in heaven  
Phil 3:20
- We are family!

v20-22 built upon the foundation:  
v20 foundation: everything is measured off of Jesus  
everything in our lives should be measured off of Jesus  
• relationships  
• "talents"/stewardships (time and resources)  
v21 formation: as we yield to the Master Builder  
1 Peter 2:5-10  
v22 habitation: the Master Builder is building Himself a home!  
1 Cor 6:19-20

We were once alienated...but God...  
John 14:16-23 saving faith  
John 16:27

God loves you!  
God wants to live in us!  
Each of us are an important part of God's family!  
Don't let Satan tell you anything to the contrary!

## Ephesians Chapter 3

In Ch 2, we learned from the Holy Spirit thru Paul

- Jesus has broken down the wall separating Jew from Gentile – we are one body
- The Gentiles, once alienated, have now been drawn near to God and can share in God's grace

v1 for this cause...a prisoner...for you Gentiles:

“On account of this gospel of grace for all men...”

and his subsequent sharing it with the Gentiles (Acts 22), to the great indignation of Jews, who were intent on killing him so he appealed to Caesar...and now finds himself in a Roman prison... but he doesn't consider himself to be a Roman prisoner...he is above his circumstances

Paul is a captive of Christ's love, which drives him to share it with others  
2 Cor 5:14 the love of Christ constrains me  
once blinded and binded by the god of this world, he heard the truth and the truth set him free. Freed by Jesus Christ, he is free indeed.

And he is strong enough to not compromise God's truth when sharing it with his family...even though it resulted in tremendous persecution

Paul now gets into his calling

v2 dispensation of grace:

“the administration of a household” i.e

- how the sovereign God chooses to run his household
- the Father's “house rules”
- “Grace rules”

God has chosen to pour our His unmerited favor on all the nations...and He chose Paul to be His courier to the heretofore pagan nations

v3-5 mystery:

although He had dropped hints to His friends the prophets, God the Father had kept secret His plan of redemption of all men.

His plan involved the blood of the Lamb of God...the Lion of the Tribe of Judah...His beloved Son...Who willingly set aside His glory with the Father and died to take away the sins of all “whosoever” who would believe in Him (talk about fatherly love!)

God Almighty Himself would take on the form of fallen creatures... without their fallen nature...to become the only acceptable substitute possible to reconcile unholy man to Him

God the Son became the love gift of God the Father to unworthy man Those...Jew and Gentile...who by faith receive His love gift, in turn, become the love gift of God the Father to God the Son...the Bride

a truth the OT prophets did foresee but did not fully see...they did not comprehend that the Gentiles would be every bit as privileged in the kingdom of God as would be the Jews

they wrote of things under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that they did not understand...they were writing to us!

e.g. Ps 22

but now this “new truth” is clearly revealed by God thru the Apostle Paul

Wrote afore in few words...understand my knowledge:

Ch 1:9-10

Ch 2:11-13

“When you read this letter and “exercise your mind” and assimilate it (put the pieces together) in your own mind, that which I now know about Jesus Christ because He revealed it to my heart and mind, will also be revealed to you by the Holy Spirit.”

In other ages was not...is now revealed:

“The Father has just taken off the covers of a secret, His plan of redemption. He is unwrapping His gift in this generation.”

the Christian faith

is not

- a blind faith
- a mindless faith.

is

- Revealed truth
- Reasoned
- carefully thought out
- intellectually honest

Is 1:18

- v6 That the Gentiles:  
What is the God of AI&J unwrapping? What is the mystery?  
That by the grace of God the Gentiles will also participate in His promises of salvation,  
i.e. the Jewish Messiah is also their Savior  
That the true meaning of “sons of Abraham”
- Those with their own personal Gen 15:6
  - was meant as a spiritual distinction vs a physical/national distinction

- v7 I was made a minister:  
To deliver this message to the Gentiles, God:
- selected a zealous man who understood His promises of the Messiah
  - supernaturally transformed him to open his heart and mind to the “Bigger Truth”, the whole truth
  - empowered him
  - sent him as His “angel” to the Gentiles.

Note: Israel was to take God to the world...they didn't...but God did via Paul!

- v8-9 less than the least of the saints:  
Paul's humble opinion of himself  
1 Tim 1:15 Jesus came to save sinners, of whom I am chief  
it is a wonder to Paul that God chose him for this work!

Note: Paul's statement is also acknowledgement that even a Jew's Jew needs the grace of God

Paul marvels at what the Father has done for him

1. “saved a wretch like me”
2. gave predominantly to him the revelation of the mystery of the Church (v3)
3. made him the minister to the Gentiles (i.e 99.9% of the world (v7)
4. made him the preacher of God's grace to the world (v8)
5. to be God's “eye-opener” to the world (v9)

see:

- “to shed rays”, “to enlighten” (light from the outside falling upon)
- “To illuminate” (light from within shining out)

I can relate...

1. He saved me when I was a complete wretch
2. He heard my cry of making up the time
3. He opened doors for me to share what He had shown me
4. He took my job in Southern CA and brought me to Phoenix...
5. Because He wanted His Word to go forth in this community

When the Lord decides to use us to accomplish His purposes (Ch 2:10), we are very easily dogged by “Why me? I am so unworthy.”

Of course we are not worthy. But,

- Accept it
- Stop listening to the condemnation of Satan
- Take your eyes off yourself
- Fix your eyes on Jesus
- Get busy about the Lord’s “Search and Rescue” business.

when God looks at us, the Potter sees the finished work, not the worthless lump of clay.

We see the worthless lump of clay...we need God’s perspective

unsearchable:

“untraceable, cannot be tracked out” i.e. unable to track the footprints

herein lies the difficulty...and the solution...in witnessing to lost loved ones and friends –

How do you communicate untrackable truths to a person whose mind has been blinded by the god of this world and who thinks this Jesus stuff is foolishness?

1. James 1:22...so they can “see”
2. Cast your seeds...and leave it to the Holy Spirit to take your simple message and reveal the truth to that person

created all things by:

John 1:1-4

Col 1:16-17

Heb 1:2

v10-11 principalities and powers...the wisdom of God...eternal purpose:  
Ponder the imponderable...

- God had a plan before He created the angels, who watched Him create the physical universe, culminating in the creation of man...in God's own image...who rebelled and fell
- the angels and the demons watched as His Son became like man and died for man so He could purchase them back for Himself
- the angels were astounded – there is no angel Savior!
- The Father's love and glory can be more clearly seen in the fallen world...because of His grace, which was not needed pre-fall
- God displays us, the Church, before angels and demons to teach them about His wisdom and His grace...He has chosen to reveal His wisdom to all of His creation thru the Church.
- how do the angels and the demons learn of the depth of the Father's love, goodness, longsuffering, mercy, grace, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control?  
By observing how He handles us!
- How is God's eternal plan revealed to the angels and demons?  
Thru us! He did not share it directly with them!  
They did not know what God was planning!  
He chose man as the means of revealing His eternal purpose  
Heb 1:14 ...and they are astounded!  
1 Peter 1:10-12

God's eternal purpose is revealed thru man...thru you and me!  
the certain will of God before time started and after time ends  
Is 14:24 as I have purposed, so shall it stand  
Not just being God's chosen vehicle for the revelation of His plan, we are  
also given the unbelievable opportunity and privilege of joining  
with God in accomplishing His purposes...The Father desires to  
use man, to use you and me

Question is, are we available to be used?  
if I chose to not be available, His purposes still stand...He  
will just use someone else  
the loss (of blessings) is mine, not the Father's



v12 we have boldness and access:

Because of God the Son's work on our behalf, we can go directly to the throne of God to receive as much of the Father's goodness, longsuffering, mercy, grace, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control as we need.

"Come right in..."

And we can go any time we want to.

Heb 4:16

"Come right now..." (we never pester the Lord!)

Jesus Himself helps me, I need no man to help me

1 Tim 2:5 One God, One Mediator

Heb 10:19-23

"Just come...let him who hears come...let him who is thirsty come."

And the angels and demons are watching this spectacle in sheer amazement and fascination, mystified and astounded!

- That God would love me as much as He does
- That I am so slow to comprehend the Father's love for me
- That I am so slow to pray...and that I don't pray more
- That I am so slow to understand what God has made available to me – the Word of God (the vast majority of churches do not teach it, the most important document in the world!)
- That I focus on me and my weaknesses and unworthiness...on my problems and their seeming enormity...instead of focusing on my Father and His power

v13 Wherefore, I desire ye faint not at my tribulations:

“Therefore, since

- God is quite obviously in control
- He is doing an eternal work in my life...while at the same time
- Revealing the depth and breadth of His nature to the angels and the demons

then the ONLY thing that can come of my tribulations is glory! PTL!

My tribulations, no matter how overwhelming they seem to me, are insignificant compared to the Father’s power and He is using them for your eternal well-being.”

Lends important insight to James 1:2-5...Count it all joy

Who benefits from my tribulations, my faith-builders?

- I do...as John 3:30, 2 Peter 3:18
- Monica...as 1 Cor 11:3
- My children...as Prov 22:6
- The unsaved who are watching...comparing
- This church!...shepherd training for me, “glass house” for you

With every trial is a testimony of the Father’s love and grace and power

v14-19 For this cause I bend my knees:

Imagine Paul falling to his knees...with a Roman soldier chained to him and pulling him down to his knees, too!

Paul’s bold and sincere witness had eternal impact on his guards!

Phil 4:22 (also a prison epistle)

On his knees...in a position of submission and reverence

Mark 11:25 Jesus: “Whenever you stand praying...”

So...it isn’t the position of the body that counts, but the position of the heart

and eyes do not need to be closed...head bowed...hands clasped

we do these things to minimize distractions

As evidenced in v13, Paul, in a Roman prison, has God’s perspective and, as a result, is God-centered and others-centered, not self-centered.

He falls to his knees before the Father in worship and intercessory prayer

Paul's prayer for us

1. spiritual strength/power (v16)  
directly from the Source, God the Holy Spirit  
Zech 4:6 not by (your) might) nor by (your) power  
but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts  
Ps 138:3  
Is 40:29-31  
Is 41:10  
Acts 1:8
2. God the Son would move right in and make Himself at home in  
their hearts (v17a)  
Does Jesus feel comfortable in your heart?  
Or is there tension there?  
Prepare your heart so Jesus will be comfortable  
(opposite John 14:1-3)
3. They would also learn that which thru them is being revealed  
to the angels and demons – the extent of the Father's love  
(v17b-19a)
  - A love which is beyond knowing, beyond measuring  
breadth: encompasses all men...  
no man is outside the boundaries  
length: endures forever  
depth: manifested on the Cross  
height: nothing is higher than the Father's love
  - but since we are stable and settled in His love, we can  
KNOW He loves us...and we can experience His  
love that
    - nourishes us...more so than a dripping roast!
    - is the very foundation upon which we build

By being rooted and grounded in the Father's love, not  
even life's worst circumstances can destroy us
4. Now as spiritual creatures and children of God the Father, that  
we would be filled to overflowing with God (v19b)  
(a mind-bending thought...)

v20-21 Now unto him...glory...throughout all ages:

Swimming in these incredible truths about the Father's love for us and His excessive lavishing of spiritual riches upon us, all Paul can do is PTL!

He marvels at the love and power of God over all things (people, things, circumstances)...and that He lives in us!

We have unlimited access to the Father's love and power.

His power is but for the asking...yet so often we do not ask... because we would rather do it ourselves!

How foolish! Lord, teach us to pray!

John 16:24 Jesus: "Ask and you will receive that your joy may be full."

My most far-fetched dreams pale in comparison to the reality God has in store for me!

The Father can and wants to do far more than I can even imagine

He is not restricted by what I ask or think...He is far bigger than anything I can ask or think

## **Ephesians Chapter 4**

from being seated with Christ in heavenly places...to walking with Him today...  
where our faith gets feet

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is  
dead also

With a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the riches we have in Christ, Paul  
now shifts gears to what should be our response to those riches

the responsibilities we have in Christ (practical application in our Christian walk)

- walk worthy of your calling (v1-3)
- edify, edify, edify (v12, 16)
- walk not like the world (v17-19)
- put off the old man and put on the new (v22-24)
- be righteously angry but do not sin (v26)
- don't go to bed angry (v26)
- don't give the devil even a toehold (v27)
- give, don't steal (v28)
- guard your tongue, let God use it (v29)
- don't grieve the Holy Spirit (v30)
- reject and flee from evil (v31)
- be kind and forgiving of others, just as Jesus is of you (v32)

Application of Biblical truth is relational...with God and with other men

My relationship with the Lord affects...even dictates...every other relationship I  
have

this passage is very relational...as study it, think of the relationships in your life

v1 prisoner of the Lord:

Paul is in a Roman prison...for preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified.  
Yet his day-to-day perspective and lifestyle are dictated by a higher truth –  
he is a captive of Christ's love and salvation.

Paul, by fixing his perspective, is able to live above his earthly  
circumstances, leaving them to the all-powerful God

1 Thes 5:16-18

Phil 4:11-13

Focus on the Lord, not your circumstances

1<sup>st</sup> priority is your relationship with Jesus Christ

walk worthy of the vocation:

“live appropriately” for our “calling”

what is our calling? To be children of God thru faith in Jesus Christ

he is going to start applying the truths of Ch 1-3 to the walk of the believer  
“You are a son of God, act like it!”

to walk worthy of my calling, therefore, is to walk differently than the  
world

- in love – not working in my own best interest, but that of others
- in light – not doing in private that which I would not do in  
public

my walk

- is not public for show, but private...for all to see
- is to reflect my talk

consider the love of “But God” in Ch 2:4...

consider the price paid by God to redeem me from eternal death  
(Acts 20:28)...

consider the incredible truth that God has a plan for my life and wants to  
use me to accomplish His work...

and it only reasonably follows that I live my life (speak, act, think) in such  
a way to honor and glorify my Lord

How should a believer walk? How should I walk?

v2 With all

1. lowliness and meekness
2. longsuffering
  - A. forbearing in love
  - B. endeavoring to keep the unity and peace

lowliness and meekness:

lowliness = “humility of mind, modesty”

it is an attitude

Gal 6:3

meekness = “gentleness, humility”

it is attitude in action

Matt 11:28-30

there is no place for pride in the Christian walk

a person who walks around proud has not had a true encounter with the

Living God...you cannot remain proud in the presence of God

Moses...Isaiah...Peter...Saul of Tarsus

The problem is the world and those walking in the world mock these things...and attack those who are like that

longsuffering:

patient with people when under pressure

“fortitude, patience” in order to “put up with, endure”

my wife has to put up with me...in love...

I have to put up with her...in love

I got the better end of that deal!

we all endure people, but how do we endure them?

forbearing...in love:

Longsuffering is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)...fruit is love

So, first, a Christian is directed to endure all people in love – thinking and

doing for the benefit of another by denying oneself

Gal 6:1-2

We are to forbear our...spouse, child, roommate...in love when...

- “I went shopping...I got a real good deal...”
- driving skills...perceived or real...passenger and driver
- emotional swings
- “selective” hearing
- punctuality
- methodical and analytical vs impulsive

We are different...by the design of God

We need to forbear in love in our differences

We need to forbear in love in our language  
do you speak to your spouse...child...roommate...friend...brother/sister  
as God would speak...or as Satan would speak?

- Kindness
- Gentleness
- Grace
- Love

or

- nitpicking
- nagging
- combative
- criticizing
- belittling
- sarcasm
- condescending

Prov 10:11



v3 Endeavoring to keep:

Secondly, we are longsuffering by endeavoring to keep unity and peace

endeavoring = “to make a prompt, diligent effort” i.e. quick and thorough  
in action, not just word

keep = “to guard, to protect” i.e. to be like a fortress

it takes hard work to be longsuffering and forbearing in love

these things (v2-3) do not come naturally...every relationship takes lots  
of work...continually...because we are all fallen sinners

longsuffering and forbearing in love are required in times of relationship  
stress...when one or both people are walking in disobedience to  
God

so we need the power of God dwelling within us to be longsuffering and  
forbearing!

Satan works tirelessly to wreck the unity of the Spirit in the Body of Christ

- your walk with the Lord
- your marriage
- your family
- your Godly relationships
- your church

sometimes he comes against our walk in a frontal assault...  
other times by enticing us into laziness and apathy

we must as tirelessly, vigilantly, ACT to protect and safeguard that unity  
and peace.

- Intercessory prayer
- “tongue biting”
- denying of self
- encouraging
- edifying
- serving: practical helps of needs you see
- listening (not fixing)
- forgiving

Rom 12:17-21 on any level cannot happen any other way

Forbearing and endeavoring by the power of God dwelling in us

1 Peter 4:8 a multitude of sins

Prov 10:12 all sin

love is in the doing

v4-6 One:

the unity we have in Christ...and are responsible to keep

1. Body

There is only one Body, the Body of Christ

All who are born of God are a part of that Body, which is a spiritual Body...

we have unity in truth...not at the expense of truth...like the ecumenical movement afoot in these last days

so it is far stronger than this body of flesh

(remember Phil 4:13).

Walk in the strength of the Lord in the unity of this spiritual Body vs the physical strength in your solitary body.

Thinking into eternity, the one Body of Christ is made up of billions and billions of parts.

We will have all eternity to not only fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, but also every believer of every age.

We will have countless brothers and sisters to know as personally as we are known by them...the kingdom of God is the size of a mega church with the intimacy of a small church

2. Spirit

3. Hope (Titus 2:11-14, Jer 29:11 KJV)

4. Lord (John 14:6)

5. Faith (in the one Lord)

6. baptism (into the Body not a denomination)

7. God and Father

- Of all (believers)

Satan is the father of all unbelievers (John 8:44)

- above

- through

- in

He is everything! He is how we can walk v1-3.

Walk in unity with the Lord, with your spouse, etc

You don't walk around with your hand slapping your face...

Or your foot stomping on your other foot...

So walk in unity and peace in our relationships

You don't drive around with a ski mask over your face...you and many innocents will get hurt

Don't walk around being self-centered...you and many innocents will get hurt

v7      measure of the gift:  
          we have the power of God in our lives because of His grace  
          we have been given grace commensurate with the gift of Jesus  
          God gave His best, everything, when He gave us His Son...  
          Nothing was withheld from us

How can you measure the gift of Christ?

Eternal life  
Forgiveness  
Reconciliation  
Righteousness  
“Head-over-heels” love

v8-10    When he ascended  
          quoting Ps 68:18

the Most High God,

- higher than the universe that cannot be measured,
- first descended in glory
- and then from heaven to this speck called earth.
- Then He further descended into the grave,
- and further still into Paradise.
- And on the appointed day (3<sup>rd</sup>) he arose from Paradise to earth
- then, 40 days later, from earth back to higher than the heavens  
          and the complete glory of God.

The circuit is complete, but we are forever changed by His journey!

We were captives of sin and death, but have been freed...and are now  
prisoners of Jesus Christ.

those in Abraham’s Bosom (Luke 16:19-31) were freed and ascended to  
heaven when Jesus ascended (Acts 1:9, Eph 1:20, Matt 27:52-53)

v11 and He gave some:

each of the billions and billions of parts of the Body has a purpose, a calling according to the sovereign will of God...  
for the good of the Body and each individual member

Know your calling...

let the Lord empower you to do your calling...

be faithful to your calling – purpose in your mind, as did Daniel, to be faithful, knowing you are a stranger in this land behind enemy lines and that your faithfulness will be attacked...  
be perfected in that calling that you might fulfil your purpose

toward that end, those callings include 4 for the work of the ministry  
Jer 3:13-14

These speak of men gifted to do a particular work...not that form some sort of organizational hierarchy of authority between God and man

- no one comes between me and my wife...or between Jesus and His Bride
- no one comes between me and my kids...or between the Father in heaven and His children
- there is only one Mediator between man and God...

Apostles

1. followed Jesus during His ministry on earth
2. eyewitnesses of the risen Lord (Acts 1:22)
3. writers of Scripture...which is complete
4. have their names written on “foundation stones”

prophets

we are a non-prophet organization these days  
some put Billy Graham here

evangelists (“preacher”)

the gift of evangelism  
according to the Great Commission, this is every believer

pastor (“shepherd”) teacher (“instructor, doctor”)

teaching pastor who

- watches over
- tends to
- cares for
- feeds

the flock, to equip and strengthen them

not a title but a “job description” in the church

...shepherding a flock  
...every head of household  
...every parent (Deut 6:4-9)

v12 the mission statement of those appointments

1. perfecting (“finishing”) the saints  
vs evangelization of the world

Evangelists preach to unbelievers...pastors teach believers  
An evangelistic sermon is for those who do not believe...but it  
does not grow and mature the believer (KACC)  
the believer needs a pastor teacher if he is to mature in the ways of  
the Lord...to walk v1-3  
in my searching to grow, I was most blessed by the verse-by-verse,  
expositional teaching ministry of Calvary Chapel

this is not to discount evangelism...a command of the Lord  
but it is not “the job” of the pastor teacher to be the church’s  
evangelist  
shepherds do not beget sheep...sheep beget sheep  
shepherds work to make the sheep healthy and strong...by feeding,  
tending, caring, and equipping them...then the sheep go out  
and reproduce  
evangelism is a natural by-product of healthy and strong sheep

so all of us are the church’s evangelists...we preach more clearly  
in our walk than in our talk

2. equipping them for the work of the ministry...by the power of the  
Author and Finisher of the faith

3. edifying the Body of Christ

“edifying” is an architectural word (edifice) that means “to  
strengthen or improve a building”...

in this case, the Temple of the Holy Spirit

the pastor teacher is give the Word of God to build up our

- Faith
- Strength in spiritual things
- Relationship with the Lord
- Relationships with others

v13 until we all come:

come = “arrive, attain”

meaning, none of us have arrived, we are all works in progress,  
being refined in the Refiner’s Fire.

Otherwise, we would not be here...

The attitude of “I have arrived” is the attitude of spiritual pride  
and self-righteousness, which God hates

1. in the unity of the faith

one look at the fragmentation of denominations shows us the  
Church is far from this and cannot be unified apart from  
Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body

Note: in the end times, there will be a movement of unity  
at the expense of truth toward a one world religion

2. in the unity of the knowledge of the Son of God:

2 Peter 3:17-18

when we walk with the Lord we are “growing”, we are not fully  
mature and grown

3. a perfect man:

a “complete man, morally and mentally”

4. until the stature of the fullness of Christ:

“maturity”

What kind of maturity does God desire to bring us to?

The fullness of Christ...to be like Jesus

That we would come to the understanding that we have the  
power of God dwelling in us so that we will live as  
God wants us to live

The purpose of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to conform us into the  
image of Jesus Christ

Rom 8:29

Rom 12:1-2

Phil 1:6

(a work that started with our purchase on the Cross)  
so Christ-likeness is a sign of maturity

v14 no more children:

“infant, simple-minded person, immature”

i.e. As we walk with the Lord and mature, we should no longer be like babies...

“just blowing in the wind”

That is an immature person being easily swayed by all the winds of spiritual fads and false doctrine that sweep thru the Church those who are blown by the wind are unstable...not well-taught in the Word of God (in time or in effort...personal or from pulpit)

v12, James 3:1

Sleight of men:

“fraud”

a gimmick to draw a crowd...for a selfish motive

there are many capable con men who know how to tug on the emotions of well-meaning Christians in order to get the money out of their pocket

Slight of hand in spiritual matters works when the roots are just superficial or very shallow in the Word.

The mature oak with deep roots is not moved by the cunning of man or devil

when we grow spiritually, we grow closer to the Lord, and will not be duped by the enemy

doctrine of demons (1 Tim 4:1-2)

- tosses spiritual children to and fro
- by the sleight (=“fraud”) of the children of Satan
- cunning craftiness (Gen 3:1)
- malicious and premeditated - lying in wait with the predetermination to do harm...seducing
- deceiving - lying, cheating, and stealing

v15 speaking the Truth in love:

love = *agapeo*

which means we are unable to share God’s unconditional, sacrificial love without the Head

a Head-less Body is a corpse...1 Cor 13:1-3

grow up:

sometimes we just want to yell, “Grow up!”

but growth does not come by yelling...it comes by love...by the nurturing and grace of the Head...who purchased the Body and is “knitting it together one cell at a time”

v16 fitly joined together and compacted...according to the effectual working:  
“organized and united, knit together”  
knit: intertwined...into a patten...such that cannot see the  
beginning or the end  
the Body is being knit together one life at a time...as were each of  
us  
we don't see the first life...we cannot see the last life...  
only the Head of the Body is the Beginning and the End (Rev 1:8)

every part of the Body as its own distinct function that is required if the  
Body is to be healthy  
Each of us need to fulfil the purpose God has given us  
Otherwise, the Body is crippled

maketh increase...edifying...in love:  
every believer walking in the Spirit bands together with other believers to  
grow and strengthen the entire Body of Christ...by God's  
unconditional and sacrificial love  
The “Breakfast of Champions”, the fuel of the Body, is God's love...  
directed by the Head of the Body  
1 John 4:7-13  
if one part of the body is selfishly rebelling against the lead of the Head  
instead of serving the other parts in love, it must be treated or  
removed if the health of the Body is to be preserved (ala cancer)

perhaps this is another reason Jesus spoke as He did in  
Matt 5:29-30  
Matt 18:7-9  
His perspective was His Body, His Bride, the Church

every part of the Body (v15-16) has a vocation, an assigned work to do  
(v11) with (v1-3)

1. humility
2. meekness
3. longsuffering
4. love
5. unity
6. peace

the Body is built up in love, with all of the parts working together as  
directed by the Head



v17-19 walk not as other Gentiles:

“Do not walk like the world walks (v1). Don’t think those in the world are cool...because they are not cool...and try to be like them.”

what is the “mid set” of unbelievers? (v17)

- Vanity = “useless, wasted, depraved”
- not rational

what is their spiritual condition? (v18)

- “obscured” understanding (Rom 1:22, Ps 14:1-4)  
“The Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional”  
Note: father of child from CC Sacramento
- “estranged from life”, dead  
the world is really one giant mass grave, filled with  
2-dimensional men vs 3-dimensional men
- saturated with ignorance
- “calloused, stupid” thoughts and feelings  
blindness (= “stupidity or callousness”) strikes the eyes and  
the heart  
2 Cor 4:3-4  
Pakistani tribunal decision

What is their physical and moral condition? (v19)

- Apathetic – they simply do not care for anything to do with  
God, unfeeling
- Completely surrendered to moral filthiness – living strictly for  
pleasure, “high on the hog slop” doing things the Word of  
God prohibits...even boasting about it  
1 Cor 5  
the “talk shows” today  
Is 5:20  
Prov 10:23
- Working a not-so-hidden agenda of physical and moral  
impurity (anything goes), turbo-charged by covetousness...  
the bottom line on our social sins (drugs, porn, prostitution,  
gambling) is greed

a real deception: people give themselves over to filthiness because “if it feels good, do it”...but in truth, they are beyond feeling when they do this.

What can they not feel? The love of God.

v20 But:

But Jesus Christ is none of those things and neither is His Bride...  
Jesus walks differently than the world, and so does/should His Bride

v21 heard:

believers

- “know” Jesus...much deeper than just “know about” Jesus
- know the ways of Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life

we have been taught by Him...we have heard and understood His  
voice/Word

what has Jesus taught us?

To put off the old man...to be renewed...to put on the new man

v22-24 put off:

“To cast off”...as you would a sewer-drenched coat

if Jesus is your Lord, you enthusiastically throw off your old behavior  
because it is now distasteful and repugnant

That which pleased you before no longer pleases you...because you have  
been changed!

Things you see and heard toward which you were indifferent before now  
offend you

renewed:

“reformed, renovated”

the old house is gutted and renovated in EVERY aspect  
because...2 Cor 5:17...Rom 12:1-2

put on:

“to put on a garment” ie the white robe of Christ’s righteousness  
Jesus has changed you!

From:

- “worn out”
- depraved and ruined by forbidden desires/intense longings

To:

- new – in freshness vs age
- once again in the image of God, having risen from the  
level of the animals
- acceptable and holy

so...stop walking like an unbeliever...stop talking like an unbeliever  
put off my righteousness (as fast as you can! Is 64:6)...and...  
put on Jesus’ (as fast as you can! John 1:29, 1 Peter 1:19)

when we “wear the world”, the world abuses us and we are spent and  
wasted...

when we “wear the Lord”, the Lord uses us and we are strengthened and  
improved

v25 lying...speak...truth with his neighbor:

lying is a character trait of the old nature...

speaking the truth in love is characteristic of the new nature

neighbor = "fellow countryman"

In context and given Phil 3:20, be open and honest with the other believers making up the Body of Christ

Therefore...don't pretend to be something you aren't...

don't act like everything is OK when it isn't and you need prayer...

don't hide the truth because of your pride...it isn't healthy

how healthy would my body be if my eyes lied to my face about that wall I am running toward?

Or if my ears lied about the garbage disposal being on when I reach for a fallen spoon?

How healthy would this Body be if I lied about finances ala a corporate CFO and CEO?

Or how healthy would this Body be if the Children's Ministry taught false doctrine to your children?

On the other end of the spectrum, does "speaking the truth" mean I can say anything I want as long as it is true

No. The tongue must be bridled or it caused great damage.

v15 speak the truth in love

Some truths should not be spoken because they harm rather than edify. Satan will use the Truth as a club to destroy...

James 3:6...hiding behind the shield of..."Well, it's the truth!"

Are the words gracious? If not, true or not, they must be choked back.

v26 be ye angry and sin not:  
be enraged and exasperated by

- the ways of the world
- the deceptions with which it has blinded so many people
- the principalities and powers fueled by hatred of our Lord...

God has put that anger in me...ala Jesus cleansing the Temple of the moneychangers who changed God's house of prayer into a den of thieves...

but I misuse that anger  
Eccl 7:8-9

It is easy to get angry (or so I've heard...), but we need the power of the Holy Spirit to bring it under control

On the other hand, don't hold into it.

- Matt 5:21-24
- Heb 12:14-15

Anger that is held on to will turn into bitterness, which is a self-inflicted wound  
anger is corrosive to the spirit – let go of it, give it to God for disposal  
this is especially true of husband and wife

v27 give place:  
anger in the heart...which starts in the mind, that must be renewed...  
surfaces either thru violent actions or violent words.

my anger gives Satan a foothold, it cracks open the door that he tries to drive a Mack truck thru  
Satan is a thief (John 6:44) and uses my unrighteous anger to break in...

- To rob me of my joy
- To harm others

We need fruit of the Spirit – love – which is seen in self-control

v28 let him steal no more:  
Is Jesus your Lord? Are you truly born again?  
Proof of the inward change will be seen on the outside...  
stealing and hoarding will become sharing and giving

a good tree will bear good fruit...a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

- v29 corrupt communications:  
 “worthless words or thoughts”  
 strife and division result from an uncontrolled tongue  
 Most of us need
- a 10 second delay like live radio and television broadcasts
  - to should speak less...and we would know greater peace
- Prov 10:19-21
- Col 4:6  
 We need to be gracious and longsuffering with each other. (v2-3)  
 my tongue is intended to be an instrument of God’s love and grace...use it  
 accordingly  
 Rom 6:13  
 so...be careful of what you say  
 “If you don’t have anything good to say, don’t say anything.”
- take captive your words as well as your thoughts (2 Cor 10:5)
- v30 grieve not:  
 any thought, motive, word, or deed that is driven by the old man...  
 speaking condemnation and wrath...and not by the new man...  
 speaking love and grace...distresses the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit indwells us so He is right there ALWAYS...He sees and  
 hears everything...so be not deceived  
 when I grieve the Holy Spirit I break fellowship with God.  
 Fellowship is restored with confession and repentance (1 John 1:9)
- v31 Let all...be put away from you:  
 what grieves the Holy Spirit?  
 The fruit of the flesh and the ways of the world
- be rid of (the natural man) the hooks of Satan
1. bitterness
  2. rage/wrath/fierce temper
  3. anger uncontrolled
  4. clamour (= “an outcry in tumult or grief”)
  5. evil speaking = blasphemy against God
  6. every malice (a motive vs an action)
- this is how you walk worthy...and different than the unbelievers

v32 And be ye:

instead, be:

1. kind (“easy, gracious”)
2. compassionate
3. forgiving (Matt 7:1-2)
4. like God (Matt 5:48)
5. loving, as Christ is (unconditional, sacrificial)

this is the end of the matter, the bottom line...

bear fruit of the Spirit and the ways of God

we are to give and be these things to the degree that God has given and is  
with us

Jesus is our standard...and example

## Ephesians Chapter 5

v1 followers:

“imitators”

from this Greek word we get “mimic”

in all of our relationships with each other, we must follow after the example set by our Father and our Lord

parents: you walking worthy (4:1) and walking differently that the unbelievers (4:17) is vitally important...because your children will imitate what you DO, not what you say

James 1:22

Hypocrisy = the talk without the walk

children do not lead, they follow their parent

Biblical Christianity is an active faith...it is a relationship based on a child following a Father...it is not a religion

v2 walk in love:

in Ch 1-3, we are seated with Christ in heavenly places...in Ch 4-6 we are walking with Him here and now

this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> “walk

1<sup>st</sup> worthy (4:1)

2<sup>nd</sup> differently (4:17)

3<sup>rd</sup> in love (5:2)

we have been given and have received God’s unconditional, sacrificial love thru His Son.

Now, we are to be a

- funnel of His love
- overflowing cup
- clearinghouse – matching the Buyer with all the sellers

When we put away 4:25-32, we can walk in love

hath given himself:

how do we walk in love? By giving ourselves to the Lord and to others  
John 15:13

Love is action, not just a feeling

Again, Jesus is our example of walking in love...for He gave Himself

offering and a sacrifice: 2 kinds of offerings

1. offering and oblation = presentation as a bloodless gift
2. offering and sacrifice = presentation of blood

sweet-smelling savor: “fragrant odor”

means the sweet savor of rest

burnt offering in Lev 1:9, 13, 17

the OT system of sacrifice detailed in Leviticus pointed to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, Who is the only acceptable and complete sacrifice for the sins of man

John 1:29

Jesus fulfilled those “shadows”

Heb 7:27, 9:12, 26-28, 10:10

...we are to be vessels

salt shakers...and...light bearers

Matt 5:13, Luke 14:34, 2 Cor 2:15-16

...funneling to others

v2, John 15:13

God wants His children

- Grown up
- Grounded
- Walking worthy...differently...in love

v3-4 But...:

these behaviors destroy that walk and are unsuitable, improper for a child of God:

- fornication: “harlotry, including adultery and incest, which is idolatry”, sexual sin of all types  
self-gratification in the flesh...is not God’s basis for a relationship
- uncleanness: “physical and moral impurity and lewdness”, the lusts of the flesh  
context: in the Roman Empire at the time, it not common and perfectly acceptable for a man to have many mistresses and concubines
- covetousness: “avarice, greediness”, the lust for material things and money, materialism  
self-gratification thru things...aka idolatry
- filthiness: “shamefulness, obscenity”, dirty jokes, blatant immorality
- foolish talking: “silly talk, buffoonery”, verbal displays of one’s ignorance
- jesting: “a vulgar wit”, dirty jokes, crude language (sexual innuendo)



not be once named:

“not even uttered or mentioned once about you or among you.”

This includes R-rated movies etc (Rom 1:28-32)

our words are seeds planted in the minds of others...and their words are seeds planted in ours

as the pure, virgin Bride of Christ, the Church cannot portray even a hint of sexual impurity or covetousness

1 Thes 5:22 avoiding even the appearance of evil

but rather:

behavior that is proper for a child of God is to continually give thanks to

Him Who loves you and has so remarkably demonstrated that love

Give thanks for

1 Thes 5:18 in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you

Ps 18:48-49 His deliverance

Ps 30:4 His holiness

Ps 106:1 His mercy (endureth forever) appears 42 times

v5 ye know...that no...hath inheritance in the kingdom:

we know this too.

God's kingdom is not a democracy

He alone dictates the entrance requirements for His kingdom

those whose lifestyles are...stubbornly...defiantly...and unrepentantly characterized by v3-4 have

- no part in eternal life with Jesus Christ
- no part of being a joint-heir with Him
- will not sit in heavenly places with Him....

God's Word here is very plain and stern – there is no place in the kingdom of God for those who practice such behavior

v6 Let no man deceive you  
 God's Word is very clear when it comes to sexual immorality  
 this chapter  
 Gal 5  
 2 Cor 6  
 those living after the lust of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God

"Don't let anyone fill you with empty words to rationalize or justify such behavior."  
 Do not be deceived...because we are so easily deceived

vain words flow from the philosophies and religions of man and out of the filthy heart of man  
 vain words: regarding children and divorce  
 "It's not the quantity of time, it's the quality of time."  
 A lie from the pit of hell

vain words deceive, sowing disobedience  
 disobedience = "disbelief"  
 the disobedient...unbelieving...will bear God's judgment

v7 partakers:  
 Don't lapse back into these things...do not participate in the worldly activities of worldly people

- laughing at their dirty jokes
- watching their immoral movies
- fantasizing about their adulterous behavior
- asking for their advise
- going on vacation with them
- going to Happy Hour with the office crowd

Note: Not 10 minutes after studying this and typing the notes, I got 2 lewd e-mails at work from 2 different co-workers

Ps 84:10

SUMMARY:  
 WALK           worthy  
                   differently  
                   in love

v8 For ye were sometimes...walk as children of light:

4<sup>th</sup> walk  
We walk worthy...differently...in love...  
Now we are to walk in the Light

In times past you were like that, but now you are a new creature in Christ  
and all old things are passed away.

A child of the Light is out of place in the darkness.

You are child of God...so act like it!

be holy, for God your Father is holy

Hanging out with the world displeases (James 4:4) Him Who paid the  
highest price to rescue you from that darkness. Why?

Because corruption spreads

1 Cor 15:33 bad company corrupts good character

so...choose your friends wisely

expose the rottenness, don't hang out with it

Matt 5:14-15

You say, "But I can't ...!"

God's Word says 1 John 4:4 and Prov 3:5-7

v9-10 For the fruit of the Spirit:

is God's Love, which is found in all that is

- Good (Matt 19:16-17)
- Righteous (Rom 3:10, 5:19)
- True (John 14:6, 17)

Proving what is acceptable:

Testing...all that is agreeable and well-pleasing to the Lord

As if the Lord is saying: "Try it my way, you will see which is better"

Joshua 23:1-13 ways of the flesh inhabit your inheritance

We have joy...peace...contentment when we walk...worthy...

differently...in love...in the light...in obedience to the Word of

God

If you have the Light,

- Draw absolute lines between right and wrong
- Let the Light shine to reveal the darkness around you
- Live in the Light with your every decision

v11-12 unfruitful works:

we are called to bear fruit...God's love...so hanging out with unbelievers  
(the disobedient) is counter-productive to our Christian walk  
they will not become fruitful...you will become unfruitful

This does NOT say we are not to reach out to our lost family and friends –  
after all, Jesus ate with sinners – it does say we are not to have  
fellowship with them...close communion

Why not? There is no common ground for close communion between  
light and darkness

Jesus ate with sinners to give them a message...to witness to  
them...to shine His Light on them...NOT because He had  
anything in common with them

He never asked an unbeliever for advise or comfort

He didn't walk in the ways of the world...but in the ways of God

Jesus changes every relationship we have...He redefines "family" and  
"friends"

He is the reference point and the centrality of every one of our  
relationships

- With other believers, we have the fellowship of joy...peace...  
comfort...hope...and the future
- With unbelievers, we share that and invite them to join us in  
it...how He changed your life...and how He could change  
their dark lives...our past is their present, our future could  
be their future

don't let any man stand between you and the Lord

reprove them:

living in the world, we cannot help but be exposed to the filth of the world  
jokes...jesting...language

but don't join in!

their words and ways are not pleasing to the Lord

He is not amused or impressed

Don't lecture or condemn...

be gracious, loving, and uncompromising

rather than lower yourself to their level...walk away...virtually or literally  
and help them to see that there is a difference between them and  
you, a Christian...

by taking an active stand for Jesus and witnessing of the Light of the  
world, the Holy Spirit will come alongside and convict them of  
their sin and witness of the life in Jesus

invite them up to your level by your lifestyle, your words...be salt and  
light, not losing your saltiness and therefore being worthless  
(in spiritual matters)

Be salt and light to the darkness...do not be close friends with those in  
darkness

v13 all things...manifest by the light...manifested is light:

reproved: "convicted, rebuked"

manifest: "apparent"

light: "illuminated"

light: "Messiah"...the Light of the world

therefore, "But all things – the ways of the flesh and the world – are convicted and rebuked and made apparent for all to see by God's illuminating light. For He Who makes all things apparent is the Messiah, the Light of the world."

all sin is revealed in the light by the Light of the world, Jesus Christ  
the world does not want to be exposed to the Light (John 3:17-19)

But...there is no escaping the Light...

you can run but you cannot hide

anyone who claims to be a Christian but is living in sin should be squirming and uncomfortable...because the Light is convicting you and calling you to repentance...so, obey

v14 arise:

That is why Jesus invites the dead in the darkness to come into the light and live

He uses men to accomplish His purposes...so those of us in the Light need to "stand up" and be a lightbearer, a vessel containing the Light for all around us to see.

Let your light shine

Glow with the love of God radiating from within

v15-17 walk circumspectly:

5<sup>th</sup> walk

we walk worthy...differently...in love...in the light...and we walk circumspectly

“carefully, diligently” in God’s ways (wisely), not in the world’s ways as do the self-willed unbelievers

Prov 3:5-7

Ps 37:3-6, 23

Redeeming the time:

“rescuing from loss”

Time is finite, perishable.

Time is money (building with \$10M lump sum vs \$10K per month)

but it is more valuable than money

we lose money, we make money

we lose time, it is lost forever

I wasted so much time...my life was a wasted life...until Jesus saved me

Now, my life counts

Joel 2:25 a promise from the Creator of time

Don’t waste time

- Surfing the Internet
- Watching worldly movies
- Partying with unsaved friends
- Hooked on TV, video games...
- Luke 9:62....eyes forward when plow

Instead

- Study the Word of God to show yourself approved of God, a workman not ashamed and rightly dividing the Word of God
- Attend Bible studies
- Teach a Bible study in your house or at work
- Pray

Consistently ask yourself the question,

“Does what I am doing or what I want to do have any eternal value?”

If no, DON’T DO IT

We make living more complicated than it is

be ye not unwise:

“without reflection”, with no consideration for God’s will and ways

James 1:22-24

James 3:13-18

Why is this so important?

Luke 21:28.

The world in which we live is degenerate and wicked...and  
existing on borrowed time.

VERY soon Rom 11:25 is going to happen!

So walk in the Lord’s ways, shunning the lures of the world and its  
ways

1 John 2:15-17

be in the Word consistently...deeply...hungrily

will of God:

that we walk with Him

1<sup>st</sup> worthy

2<sup>nd</sup> differently

3<sup>rd</sup> in love

4<sup>th</sup> in the light

5<sup>th</sup> circumspectly

the Christian walk is about

- walking wisely (Prov 1:7...unbelievers are fools)
- redeeming the time
- understanding the will of the Lord – by getting in and staying  
in the Word – and going with the flow of God’s will

v18 and be ye not drunk:

what is a person getting drunk looking for? (a favorite activity of world)

Relief...escape...from the pain of this world

Life hurts...because of darkness

the darkness cannot take the pain away, only the Light can  
the purpose of Happy Hour is to deaden the pain and the emptiness...not  
to be happy

alcohol is a deception, a corruption of the joy of the Lord

- fruit of the vine...
- with yeast/leaven introduced
- fermented (process of corruption by death) to change the nature of the fruit of the vine
- that distorts the mind and thinking of the consumer
- appealing to the lust of the flesh
- the intoxication (root word = toxic) becomes more and more demanding/addicting

excess:

“riotous, reckless wickedness and depravity, unsavedness”

drunkenness does not

- make any relationship any better
- fix any problems
- heal any hurts
- ease any distress...

it just temporarily

- dulls the senses to unavoidable realities
- clouds and distorts one's mind
- cripples the ability to reach out to the Light and the True Helper (John 14:26-27)

but be filled with the Holy Spirit:

what happens when a person is filled with the Holy Spirit?

- The problems and the pain are taken care of...given to the Lord, Who will take care of them
- The Truth is revealed
- Confusion is replaced with clarity and order

God has given us a new wine, the Holy Spirit...the joy of the Lord and the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

Him Who God has given, the Holy Spirit. builds up and strengthens...  
that which the world gives, alcohol, tears down and destroys  
the “Holy Spirit high” is a bigger rush than the booze/drugs “high”!!!

in walking a Spirit-filled life, the issue is not how much of the Holy Spirit  
do you have...but...how much of you does the Holy Spirit have



v19-21 speaking...singing...giving thanks...submitting:  
the “signature” of a Spirit-filled Christian:

- in conversation with others, edify with words of encouragement and songs of worship
- have a heart filled with the joy of Jesus
- always praising God in thanksgiving for all things  
Rom 8:28, 1 Thes 5:18
- submit to others in the fear of God (humility)

Jesus is the foundation of every relationship we have...

He changes every relationship we have...

He redefines “family” and “friends”

Paul now tells us what a Spirit-filled

- Wife
- Husband
- Child
- Father
- Employee
- Employer

is (5:22 – 6:9) i.e. how to walk circumspectly (v15)

he starts with the marriage relationship

single people: Listen up! Learn this now rather than later.

It is easier to be single wanting to be married  
than

Being married and wanting to be single!

Next week: we will look at walking circumspectly in marriage

Read ahead

Primer: only 2 rules

This week, meditate on those 2 simple rules

- What do they mean?
- What do they not mean?

Having taught us to walk

1. Worthy
2. Differently
3. In love
4. In the light
5. Circumspectly

and admonished us to drink the “New Wine” of the Spirit-filled life (v18)...

when we were in Israel a couple of years ago, we went to a nature preserve, where we saw all the plants and trees mentioned in the Bible

While showing us a grapevine, the guide talked about the 4 stages of wine

1. sheep: your heart is gladdened
2. lion: you think you are strong and mighty
3. monkey: you act foolishly
4. pig: you are left in your mess

wine manifests itself on the outside...the “New Wine” is far superior – it fills the inside where it empowers, strengthens, and builds up

Why submit to each other?

Because we need each other...just as every part of the Body needs every other part to be healthy

This is a difficult passage of Scripture...because our flesh hates it and makes it difficult

v21 submitting yourselves one to another:

Paul now in Ch 5:21-6:9 tells us what a Spirit-filled

- Wife
- Husband
- Child
- Father
- Employee
- Employer

is i.e. how to walk with Jesus in our relationships with each other

Jesus redefines “family”

Matt 12:46-50

he starts with the marriage relationship...he starts with the wife...and we get so wrapped up in v22 that we miss the context of the over-arching issue

the issue upon which the whole discussion of personal relationships is built is the issue upon which our relationship with God is built...submission

(go to 1 Cor 14)

the kingdom of God has an order...for God is a God of order  
1 Cor 14:33, 40      the Body of Christ is to act orderly  
1 Cor 11:3, 12  
submission is paramount BY ALL within God's order  
Col 3:23-24  
Matt 20:25-28

We must retreat from the inflamed and abused verse 22 and get the big picture of God's perspective

God the Father sent God the Son...Who submitted  
Phil 2:5-8      of no reputation  
John 4:31-34      to do the Father's will and work  
John 13      the lowest servant

God the Son sent God the Holy Spirit...Who submitted  
John 15:26  
John 16:7, 13

Not value statements between persons of the Godhead...God's order

And we have eternal life in Jesus Christ because we have submitted to His Lordship  
Matt 16:24  
Matt 18:4  
Rom 10:9-13

And as the Father sent the Son, the Son sent us  
John 20:21  
Acts 1:8

Every sending is built upon submission...obedience to God's will

So...we ALL...not just wives...need to check our egos and our pride in at the door before we study this passage of Scripture!

There is a fundamental problem with submission...our flesh HATES to do it and rebels against it with every fiber of our carnal being  
Rom 7:13-25

These truths are tough...because the flesh opposes the Word of God and this passage speaks of Marriage God's Way.

This passage will probably be convicting, even uncomfortable in places, as the Holy Spirit faithfully continues to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ.

The greatest challenge in a Christian marriage is walking in the fullest obedience to the Word of God

the Spirit-filled life is not easy...it requires laying yourself down but the "New Wine" (v18) ALWAYS

- makes every relationship better
- fixes every problem
- heals every hurt

...as we James 1:22

Christianity is most visible in our relationships

the ultimate “Proving Ground” of walking with our Lord Jesus Christ is  
the marriage relationship (Listen up, singles!)

differences between men and women

<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>
bottom line	details
single minded	multi-tasking jugglers
competitive	relational
analytical	emotional
brittle/fragile	resilient

and the differences are glorious...  $1 + 1 > 2$   
I NEED Monica! She NEEDS me!

but one of the greatest sources of marital problems is the desire of one to  
rule over the other...striving for headship of the home  
God’s Way is both submitting to the other...as we submit to the sovereign  
God within the framework of His order

God is a God of order...He is not the author of confusion  
To establish order, He has assigned Roles...2 rules

1. Wife: Submit to your husband  
(it does not say LOVE him!)
2. Husband: Love (die for) your wife

I do not pretend to have this figured out and “firing on all cylinders” in my life.  
My marriage is a wonderful one because I am married to a wonderful, Godly  
woman. I do not deserve such a magnificent woman.

But our marriage, like every marriage, needs constant attention and effort.  
Since we are flawed, we introduce flaws into the marriage.

This is a very involved subject – God teaches us greatly about Himself and His  
love for us thru the marriage relationship

v22-24 wives...:

the role of the wife in God's order

perhaps the most abused verse in Scripture is v22

If approached in the flesh, this verse is inflammatory...

We must approach spiritual truth in the Spirit

Man was created by God first...not

- Better
- More important
- More valuable
- Smarter
- More holy

that is simply the position the sovereign God gave the man

the woman's role in marriage is to submit to the Lord and to submit to the position the Lord has given the man

The wife who is born-again, Spirit-filled has submitted her life to the Lord

Why? Because she has come to understand how much He loves her...supremely, sacrificially

What v22-24 means:

- This is purely position between HUSBAND and WIFE... not man and woman (singles dating, for example)
- This does NOT say that wives are to submit to their husbands IN SIN...but to a husband submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ walking with his Lord  
Looking forward to the one rule given to the husband (v25), why would she not be willing to submit to a man who loves her just as Christ loves her?
- after discussing an issue with her husband but unable to get to resolution, the wife says,  
"OK. We will do it your way. Not that I agree but because God has given you the responsibility and you are accountable for the results."

A submitted husband will listen to a submitted wife

e.g. Abraham and Sarah...Sarai

the woman's role in marriage is not natural...it is supernatural

The fundamental problem is that none of us...man or woman...like to submit

it is natural to be self-centered...

to submit is God-centered...Spirit-filled...supernatural

One simple rule for the wife...impossible in the flesh...but made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit

Therefore, she will be a target of intense spiritual warfare (Ch 6)

The Women's Lib movement was a spiritual attack against God's order

v25 Husbands:

intro: I do not speak on these things because

- it is easy
- I have it all dialed in

But I speak them because God is speaking to me about this...and He is speaking to you too

the role of the husband in God's order

one simple rule – love your wife as Jesus loves His....to die to self  
(a VERY active word).....Phil 2:5-8

love (agape) her as Jesus loves His Bride (v1-2)  
to deny self...daily...in all things

the essence of love is self-denial, not self-gratification

how can I love Monica that way?

- submit to my Head (1 Cor 11:3)  
a husband in authority must be a husband under authority
- learn her in order to serve her (e.g. “When you get a chance” means “Drop everything you are doing and do this immediately if not sooner.”)
- Speak to her at home as I would speak to her at church...as Jesus speaks to His Bride – she is the daughter of the King so treat her accordingly...if I would not say it in public, don't say it in private
- Listen to her...without offering instant solutions to the problems
- Talk with her...open myself wide to her and be vulnerable
- Wash her with the Word
- Spoil her...do not rule over her
- Honor her (Greg always stands)
- Pray for her, pray with her
- Love her children – especially in blended families
- Apologize to her as quickly as I offend her
- Date her...to appreciate all she does to keep the house and the family running

other things I have learned...am learning:

- My most important earthly relationship will grow stronger and better every day that I grow in the love of the Lord...  
I cannot give that which I don't have
- "Marriage My Way" is a very frustrating relationship,  
"Marriage the Lord's Way" is a glorious, fulfilling relationship
- I must be the one to initiate...to love and submit first...just as God first loved us
- If Monica's needs are unmet, I am responsible
- If my needs are unmet, ditto! I am totally responsible for the relationship (1 Cor 11:3)...it all starts with me  
it does not start with Monica submitting to me...it starts with me loving Monica as Jesus loves the Church  
Rom 5:8

A Christian marriage – very simple

- One rule for the wife – submit to him as unto the Lord  
A supernatural choice...not an emotion
- One rule for the husband – love her as Christ loves His Bride  
A supernatural choice...not an emotion

When we make Godly choices, the Lord then reconciles our emotions

A Christian marriage – the Creator interlocking 2 rules and 2 Spirit-filled people

- 1A. When a wife strives for headship, she is unwilling to submit to her husband...which results in the husband unwilling to love her sacrificially...which makes it impossible for the wife to submit to a husband who does not love her as Jesus loves her...a death spiral
- 1B. When a husband does not love his wife sacrificially...the wife is not assured of being loved supremely...and she begins to challenge the husband's decisions, thinking she needs to "take care of business" herself...resulting in the husband even less willing to love his wife sacrificially...a death spiral
- 1C. when neither husband nor wife submit to each other and to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, marriage becomes hell on earth

But...

- 2A. When a wife submits to her husband has she submits to the Lord...the husband will love her supremely...and she wants to submit all the more to him...and he loves her sacrificially...an energized relationship
- 2B. When the husband loves his wife as Christ loves the Church and dies for her...she feels loved supremely and willingly submits to her husband...who loves his wife all the more...resulting in her submitting even more easily...an energized marriage
- 2C. only when both husband and wife submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and submit to each other (v21) do the 2 rules of Christian marriage interlock...resulting in heaven on earth

Is a wife to submit to her husband when the husband does not love her as Christ loves His Bride? Yes

Is she to submit when her husband's lead is contrary to the Lord's? No.

Is a husband to love his wife as Christ loves the Church when his wife does not submit to his position? Yes

Is he to love her that way if she is living contrary to the will of God? Yes

- The love of God knows no bounds  
Why "no reputation" in Phil 2:7?  
For all the "whosoever" will come

- e.g Hosea

in Marriage God's Way, who has the tougher assignment?

In God's Way and order, marriage is a duet...not a duel  
HOWEVER...this is not natural...it is supernatural

It requires 2 different people

- being obedient to the Lord for their role
- being Spirit-filled so they can be obedient to a supernatural truth

at its root, marriage is spiritual

v26 sanctify and cleanse:  
"purify"

washing with the water:  
bathe her in God's Word...spoken and lived

"salty water" bath  
Mark 9:50



v27 present it:  
“exhibit”, for all to see

spot:  
“stain”

holy and without blemish:  
“pure and faultless”

The church...the Bride of Christ...is without spot or blemish because of  
the precious blood of our Lord and Savior...our Bridegroom

1 Peter 1:19

Christ sees His bride as blameless i.e. she has no faults!

We are to see our wives, and thus talk to our wives, the same way.

I am not to

- criticize
- demean
- embarrass
- denigrate

her in public or in private.

v28-31 So ought men to love their wives:  
that is how I am to love Monica

look at my wife as the Bible says she is –myself (Gen 2:24).

Love her as Jesus loves her...because “she is me”

Deny myself...and love “myself”...and something wonderful and  
supernatural happens in the transfer!

two can only become one...by submission

husbands take care of themselves...only as well as they take care  
of their wives

wives take care of themselves...only as well as they take care of  
their husbands

rabbit trail...this “one flesh” relationship ONLY exists between husband  
and wife

so...don't

- put your kids above your spouse...your kids need to be #3 !!
- put a parent above your spouse
- have ANY friends of the opposite gender

Note: v29-30 is a great proof text for a pre-trib Rapture!

v32 This is a great mystery:  
marriage originated in the heart of God

the Bridegroom is supernatural...so is His Bride...so is God's order  
Do you believe it?  
Do you live like it?

v33 let everyone of you:

the summary of the marriage relationship God's Way

- the husband is accountable to the Lord, his Head, to be this...  
he is not accountable to his wife
- the wife is accountable to the Lord, her Head, The Word of God to  
be this...  
she is not accountable to her husband, her head

Illustration: traffic cone  
Eccl 4:12

Note: no husband yet has made a good Holy Spirit...nor any wife  
Let the Holy Spirit do His work of conforming us into the image of

- Our Head
- Our Lord
- Our Bridegroom

## Ephesians Chapter 6

A continuation of the discussion on relationships that Paul started in Ch 5

v1-9 guidelines for relationships here on earth speak to relationships in heaven

<u>I am His</u>	<u>He is my</u>	<u>guidelines</u>
Child		obey Honor
	Father	does not provoke Nurtures Admonishes
Servant		obey with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Fear</li> <li>* Trembling</li> <li>* Singleness of heart (James 1:8)</li> <li>* Action unto Him</li> <li>* Submissive will</li> </ul>
	Master	Does not threaten Does not play favorites

v1 Children:

Spirit-filled wives and Spirit-filled husbands have Spirit-filled children...  
...who have been taught right from wrong from the Word of God by  
parents submitted to the Lord i.e. they walk the talk  
Deut 6:4-9

Q: who are “children”?

- Those who don't yet know right from wrong...the unlearned  
e.g. Jonah 4:11  
when the parents can reason with the child...then Is 1:18  
and they are accountable for their own decision  
regarding Jesus
- Those who are still dependent upon their parents  
e.g. Num 1:2-3  
and as long as they are in your house (care and protection),  
your rules are to be obeyed

obey:

the only instruction written to children

Ex 20, Deut 5, Col 3

“to listen attentively, to hear under as a subordinate”

the foundation is still Ch 5:18, 21 with Col 3:23-24

with parents and children being obedient to the Father in heaven

in the Lord:

In God's order there is authority and accountability

If there were not, confusion, chaos, anarchy would reign

Here, the issue is the will of the child being submitted to that of the Lord's  
and of the parents

A key qualifying phrase...because some parents want to lead their  
children into ungodly activities

- stealing
- prostitution
- drug trafficking

in cases like that, the child is not to submit to the parent

Ps 1:1-2 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the  
ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in  
the seat of the scornful. But his delight *is* in the law of the  
LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

right:

“holy”

Lev 11:44-45

be holy for I AM holy

v2 honor:

“to prize, to highly value”

a commandment, not a suggestion

a command without qualifications or performance clauses

On the contrary, this command is open ended

How do children honor their parents?

- Respect and obedience
- Listen to...do not argue
- Love
- Care for
- Call/visit

God is very specific; notice that God says “father and mother”, not

- “parents”
- mother and mother...
- father and father...

as we see today in homosexuals having children

first commandment with a promise:

Ex 20:12

4 Commandments (1<sup>st</sup> table – our relationship with God)

6 Commandments (2<sup>nd</sup> table – our relationships with others)

this is the first of those 6

v3 that it may be well with thee:

God’s social building block for man is the family

- Husbands and wives submitting to the Lord and to one another
- Husbands loving their wives like Christ loves the Church
- Wives submitting unto the husbands
- Children obeying the parents

submission is the foundation...obedience is built on submission

submission is supernatural

When a nation tinkers with and dismantles God’s basic building block...when it no longer submits to God...it soon falls

one of the measures of societal melt down is children being disobedient to their parents

2 Tim 3:1-5 (v2)

obedience is a very serious issue!

2 Sam 15:22-23

Deut 21:18-21

Prov 17:25

If a child is disobedient, it is NOT going to go well for him/her

v4 fathers, provoke not your children to wrath:

The father is given the responsibility to be the parental disciplinarian  
That does not mean to taunt or tease or discipline to “get their goat”...  
or make unreasonable demands upon them...for...  
our Father does not taunt us...or tease us...or do anything to make us  
angry...or make unreasonable demands on us

Don't always be in the kid's faces and on their cases.

Be

- Encouraging and uplifting
- Supportive
- Tender
- Gentle.
- Gracious
- Merciful
- Loving
- Firm
- Forgiving
- Dependable
- Faithful
- Accessible
- Tactile...touch them frequently

Fathers are for love:

- security
- support
- comfort
- understanding
- fun
- confidence building
- encouragement
- role model
- chastisement

bring them up in the nurture:

nurture = “correction, chastening”

Prov 22:6      train up = instruction, discipline

The father is given the responsibility to be the parental disciplinarian

It will NOT go well for a disobedient child

As fathers, we want things to go well for our children because we love them more than we can verbally communicate

so...we must lovingly, firmly chasten them when they are disobedient

God’s Word says

Prov 13:24

Prov 22:15

Prov 23:13-14

Prov 29:15

That does not mean to beat them

Child abuse is a very real problem in our crumbling society...

because the family structure ordained by God is crumbling

So how do we use this rod?

With the heart of a shepherd (rod = shepherd’s rod)...

...for chastisement, not for beating

Deut 8:5      as a man chastens his son, so the Lord chastens you

Ps 23:4b      thy rod and thy staff comfort me

Ch 4:26a      fruit of the Spirit is love...self-control

Ch 5:2          in love

Ch 5:15        carefully, diligently

The attitude of the heart is key

- Chastisement (“to purify”) is correction for their benefit
- Punishment is vengeance for our benefit...and belongs only to the Lord

Training is done

- by instruction and by example (James 1:22)  
Hypocrisy is counter-productive, deceiving only the hypocrite
- consistently, calmly...not by just threatening action but assuredly taking action  
Prov 15:1

The responsible parent clearly establishes and communicates boundaries  
for the children and consistently, lovingly, firmly  
(not provokingly) disciplines transgressions breaching those  
boundaries  
Heb 12:5-11

the irresponsible parent forgoes that for fear of conflict or out a desire that  
their children be their friends  
yet the fear of conflict yields greater conflict as the child pushes the  
envelope to see where the boundary is...because the child seeks  
safety in the boundaries

our children are not our friends, they are our children  
friends and children are 2 very different relationships...  
friends need not obey friends  
during the age of raising, all parents have been given a responsibility that  
cannot be shirked.  
If you strive to make your children your friends while you are still raising  
them, you surrender the rod, the tool of chastisement and  
instruction...and you lose control of your kids  
so...parents, be parents!  
After the raising and the children leave and cleave, it would be a blessing  
if the children are your friends...all things in the right time

father: this is the hardest job I have.  
Who can be a parent without the “New Wine” in Ch 5:18?

v5-8 servants:  
in context: slaves, which abounded in the Roman Empire  
our application: employees

v5 in singleness of your heart, as unto the Lord:  
James 1:8  
Gen 16:5-10 God’s instruction to Hagar: return and submit...  
with a promise to bless her

your employer has purchased 8 hours of your day...

- be sure to give them your very best for 8 hours
- do the job you have been given to do, not the job you would rather do
- do it unto the Lord and deliver more than what is expected
- come to work on time...even early
- think...thoughtful



v6 eyeservice:

“sight-labor, that needs watching”

- work hard always for the Lord, not just when the boss is looking
- don't be a “high maintenance” employee requiring lots of supervision...but work with integrity and independence, helping others

menpleasers:

don't be a “Yes man”.

Since the Lord is your Boss, give honest input and thoughtful recommendations to your earthly boss

a valuable employee is one from whom the boss knows he can get

- the truth
- solutions...not complaints

don't play the office politics game...don't step on anyone as you are moved up the corporate ladder

Ps 75:5-7

but as servants of Christ...from the heart:

speaks of an attitude we are to carry into the workplace

you are a witness...an ambassador...of the Lord in the job He has given you

e.g. Balsamo Friday morning

where we work is our ministry...so work accordingly as the Lord's ambassador and missionary in that place...wholehearted in the performance of your job

be a steady  
reliable  
trustworthy  
diligent  
conscientious  
honest  
cheerful

employee...a witness of Jesus Christ

every morning: “Lord, make me a witness for You in this place this day.”

With God's perspective of your job rather than your perspective, you will find your job more rewarding

God has given you His very Best...give Him your very best

and be sure to come to Church on Sunday and the mid-week studies so you can be fed and strengthened to go back to work and minister to the lost and hurting

v7-8 with good will...knowing...the same shall he receive:  
kindness, thinking of others before yourself  
e.g. my dad's report in Raleigh with a do-nothing co-worker...  
changed the co-workers work habits

The Golden Rule applies in the workplace, too! (Matt 7:12)

the Lord has the best Bonus program!

v9 masters:

in context: in the Roman Empire, a slave was a piece of property that  
could be used, abused, and disposed of in any way pleasing to the  
master

our application: employers and managers/supervisors will some day stand  
before The Master Who set the slaves free and gave their lives  
value and meaning...so treat your employees as well as the Lord  
treats you

Do you understand that the Lord has put you in that position of authority?  
Have you ever asked

- Why?
- How would you handle this situation/employee, Lord?
- Lord, you are the Lord of my business. What do You want to do?

use a Godly management style that is a witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ (who needs all those Management books when you have the Bible?)

- encouraging words, not mean-spirited threats  
(threatenings = “menace”...don’t be a tyrant)
- Teach them how to do the job...be “hands-on”
- lead by example...don’t ask them to do anything you would not do yourself
- empower your employees to do their job responsibly...and...
- give your employees room to make mistakes...to grow into stronger employees  
how will they learn the right thing to do...unless they first do the wrong thing...just like us in our walk with Christ
- the work force is a body and every part is important...so do not play favorites
- compensate...recognize...promote...fairly
- care for the whole person, not just the one you have 8 hours
- be faithful to keep your promises
- be a servant
- make the Bible your Employee Relations Manual and Ethics Policy

In so doing, you will draw good people by they way you conduct your business  
and remember...your earthly position of master counts for nothing in heaven!

give all the credit for success and all the honor to the Lord Jesus Christ

v10 Finally:  
“finally” or “furthermore”

If we walk

- Worthy
- Differently than unbelievers
- In love
- In the light
- Circumspectly

lead Spirit-filled lives, as evidenced in Godly relationships (Ch 5:22 – 6:9)  
that witness of the Lordship of Jesus Christ...

Then we can expect to be resisted by a ferocious and unrelenting enemy.

Those are spiritual walks...spiritual relationships...spiritual realities...  
impossible without the Holy Spirit

When we chose to walk His way...to relate to each other His way...Satan  
takes aim and attacks...ferociously

What are we to do? How do we endure Satan’s attacks?

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might:

if I walk in this world in my own strength, I might get thru a small trial...  
but I will never get thru the overwhelming trials that are so much  
bigger than me

Spirit-filled does not mean “able to stand alone”, it means a continual and  
complete dependence and submission to the Lord

the Spirit-filled child of God is strengthened to endure the attacks of Satan  
by trusting even more in the all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-  
present Lord...

the safest place to be during the warfare is by the Lord’s side

He is our strength and our defense.

2 Cor 12:9-10 “My strength is made perfect in weakness.”  
when I am weak, then I am strong

Joshua 1:9

When in need of Strength Training, go to Psalms

18:2, 39

27:1

46:1

59:16-17

144:1

the Lord is my power, my strength, and my power....for I have none of  
my own

John 15:5 with Phil 4:13

Zech 4:6

As we look thru v18, Jesus is my

1. strength
2. power
3. defense
4. victory
5. truth
6. righteousness
7. peace
8. Who I can trust
9. Salvation...my safety
10. offence
  - sword
  - artillery

only by Jesus am I able to

1. stand during the battle
2. remain standing after the battle
3. repel the attacks of the enemy

v11 Put on the whole armor:

Do you go to your workplace in only your Fruit-of-the-Looms?

My folks never sent me out into the Iowa winter to play without bundling me up like Charlie Brown...

I don't let my kids romp in the pool under this Arizona sun without sun screen...

Nor should you leave your bedroom/house unless you are in full battle gear

able to stand against the wiles of the devil

wiles: schemes

devil: "slanderer"

The whole armor is given by God to be worn by God's children in order to hold off the subtle, deceiving tricks of him who is constantly tempting and slandering us

2 Cor 2:11 so we are not ignorant of his ways

2 Cor 11:13 so we are not fooled by the counterfeit

v12 For we wrestle not...but against:  
today, all the evil is being restrained by God...until the Church and the  
Restrainer are removed  
God's order still reigns...but someday very soon He will let go and  
confusion and evil will reign  
until then, we are at war!

cardinal rules of warfare:

- know your enemy
- know the battlefield
- take all defensive measures
- be expert in the use of your weapons

Know your enemy...man is not the enemy  
those I can see are not really my enemies  
Satan, our my enemy, is unseen...but...

- is not all-knowing...although very cunning
- is not all-powerful...although very powerful  
Dan 10:7-14, 19-21
- is not ever-present...although he has lots of help
- spots our weaknesses and targets them
- works from the outside in...whereas God works from the  
inside out  
subtly tries to draw me into a physical conflict...division in  
a relationship...where he has a decided advantage
- has no authority on earth or in heaven...Jesus has it all  
John 3:35, John 5:27
- is a creature, not the Creator
- kicks us when we are down
- is very organized

get a glimpse of the enemy in Frank Peretti's *This Present  
Darkness*

Warning: beware of an unbiblical pre-occupation with  
Satan and his demons vs the King of kings and  
Lord of lords

Know the battlefield...the battlefield is spiritual  
The battlefield is not our relationships (else, be division in Body)  
Legislation is the wrong battleground for the ills of this world.  
Education is the wrong battleground.  
The battlefield is spiritual...where we have absolute advantage!

so fight accordingly...using proper defense and effective offense  
Physical weapons have no value  
Be discerning and alert enough to not be drawn into the enemy's  
trap

v13-18 the whole armor of God:

Paul is writing this while in a Roman prison...chained to a Roman soldier  
the metaphor employed is the Roman soldier, at the time the most highly  
trained and equipped warrior in the world

stand:

in v11 and v13 and v14

“to abide”

John 15:1-5

the armor of God...is Jesus!

Rom 13:12-14

Only by putting on Jesus are able to not buckle under mounting pressure

Note: Gal 5:22-23 require pressure to “show up”

Perspective to spiritual warfare is critical for a healthy believer

- We do not approach spiritual warfare like Clint Eastwood in *The Good, the Bad, and The Ugly* or in *Dirty Harry*
- Nor do we stick our head in the sand like an ostrich, choosing to ignore it out of fear
- We may be ignorant of the person and the power of Satan...but we are not ignorant of the person and the power of God

Key: v10

Eph 1:16-22a

His power

Eph 3:9-12

they are afraid of us!

Col 1:16

they are only creatures

Col 2:15

Jesus already has the victory

Rom 8:38-39

we are inseparable from Him

1 John 4:4

He is greater

there is no backside protection, the shield is faith, so be in forward march!

We never need retreat.

Matt 16:18 Jesus is leading a frontal assault!

v13 withstand:

“to resist”

James 4:7

When Satan comes condemning/slandering me, my Armor, in whom I  
have trusted, protects me

The believer that walks in his armor will be able to

- resist the surprise attacks of the enemy
- fend off the frontal assaults of the enemy
- remain standing at the end of the day, victorious

The careless believer will get bloodied

v14 stand, having your loins:  
“loins” ie the lower trunk is a very tender area specially needful of covering and protection  
Left unprotected, loins are easily injured and quickly leaves one unfit for warfare.  
Our “safety belt” as it were is God’s absolute, unchanging truth

Satan is a liar...Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6)

So...on the days when we are getting beat up, we must

- be quick to discern the spiritual nature of the attack...
- not react based on our emotions or our circumstances
- stand on the Truth

breastplate:

protection for the heart and the soft middle

our heart is evil and desperately wicked...unless it is covered by the righteousness of Christ

Jesus said Matt 16:24

Satan says, “You don’t need the Cross!”...just what he said to Jesus in Matt 4

v15 feet:

football fans, remember the Iron Curtain Defense of the Pittsburg Steelers in the 70s?

The heart of that unit was Jack Lambert. Know why he retired?  
Turf toe...a foot injury that would not heal

the health of an army is as good as the health of its feet.

The US Army spares no expense in the shodding of its foot soldiers.

A soldier can march and fight only as long as his feet hold up.

We march into battle on the foundation of the Good News of God’s love, grace, peace

Is 52:7 how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings (Gospel)

The ground in the world is too rocky and thorny to walk bare-foot!

The ground is cursed...the Gospel removes the curse for those who will wear it

and there is only one true Gospel...many false gospels



v16 Shield...fiery darts:

The most ancient and universal weapon of defense is the shield.  
Paul is referring to the large shield, worn by heavy-armed infantry,  
adapted to the form of the human body, being made oval or in the  
shape of a door

In warfare of the time, a “dart” was more like a flaming log filled with  
flammable material

our greatest defense is faith...trusting in the Rock of our Defense

2 Cor 5:7 walk by faith

Ps 3:3 Thou O Lord are a shield for me

Jesus is our impenetrable protection that extinguishes the fiery missiles of  
Satan...

Trusting in the power of God to protect us, we can deflect anything and  
everything the enemy throws at us

v17 helmet:

ever see a soldier...or a football player...go into battle without a helmet?

The helmet protected the head/mind...the thinking.

Jesus is my helmet...He is my salvation

my knowledge and assurance of my salvation (Rom 8:1) is a tremendous  
weapon against Satan

sword:

used for hand-to-hand combat...personal, in close quarters...for both  
defensive and offensive purposes

our sword is a spiritual weapon

Heb 4:12

the Word of God is not merely a book, it is a supernatural, spiritual  
weapon

in close hand-to-hand combat, “the Word” is the passage of Scripture that  
applies to the pressure cooker you are in at the moment

how did Jesus fight the temptations of Satan? With the Word of God  
when Satan attacks, we are also to wield our sword

v18 Praying:

the weapon by which we join hands with God to accomplish His purposes

- open the eyes of people blinded by Satan to the Gospel
- bind the power of Satan in the lives of people

we are to pray

- about all things
- in every situation
- as led by the Holy Spirit, Who is in continual agreement with the will of God (Rom 8)
- quickly...alertly and persistently
- for us and for each other (Linda going thru a door, being “covered” by her partner)

I can go thru any door in the world (an offensive maneuver) when I rely on the Holy Spirit and my brothers and sisters “cover me”

watching:

being vigilant...like a watchman on guard

v19-20 And for me:

Paul coveted their prayer for the battles in which he was intensely engaged  
i.e. from a Roman prison...chained to a Roman soldier

I also covet your prayers...that I always speak the uncompromised truth in love and frankness...

a great prayer for all of us because the undiluted Word of God is the truth that protects us in the midst of the fierce battle.

v21-22 affairs:

filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, equipped by the Spirit, the battle goes well

Praise Reports...often neglected...are important for they

- encourage the embattled Body
- remind us that the battle belongs to the Lord...and to let Him fight it

v23-24 Paul says, “Good-bye” with gifts from God

- peace
- love
- faith
- hope
- grace