



Sunday, May 26, 2019

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The **WEALTH** of the Believer (1:1-3:21)

Through these chapters we have sought to grow in our understanding of the greatness of our God—Who He is—and in turn Who He is to me.

II. The **WALK** of the Believer (4:1-6:9)

Paul has defined our **BELIEFS** as a Christian and now he will define our **BEHAVIOR**. He now turns from **DOCTRINE** to **DUTY**. We note that our understanding of the **PRINCIPLES** of **GOD’S WORD** will lead to the **PRACTICE** of **GOD’S WAYS**.

A. Walk **WORTHY** (4:1)

To *“walk worthy”* of your calling is to live in such a way that what we were saved for and the way we live are in balance—both having equal weight. Paul begs us to live in balance with what we were saved for. Our calling and our conduct should be in line.

B. Walk in **UNITY** (4:2-6)

Paul commands us to **WALK WORTHY**, first, by **WALKING IN UNITY**. He explains that to *“walk worthy,”* is simply to live like Jesus. It is a life marked by Christlikeness.

Having **Biblical unity** speaks of having the *same mindset* in pursuing the *same mission*.

Philippians 2:2-3 Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being of one accord [knit together in harmony], of one mind [one purpose]*. **3** Let

nothing *be done* through strife [*contention/ self-ambition*] or vainglory [*empty, self-praise*] but in lowliness of mind [*humility - a low opinion of your own opinion*] let each esteem other [*set a value*] better [*more important*] than themselves [*considering others first*].

1. Our **VILLAIN** of **UNITY**—**LUST** (James 4:1-10)

a. The **CAUSE** (James 4:1)

James 4:1 From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

Pro 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is **Wisdom**.

b. The **CONSEQUENCES** (James 4:2-5)

- i. **FRUSTRATED** Cravings (James 4:2)
- ii. **FAULTY** Communication (James 4:3)
- iii. **FAILED** Communion (James 4:4-5)

The villain of Biblical unity is caused by lust—the hedonistic desire for worldly pleasure.

c. The **CURE** (James 4:6-10)

James 4:6 But **He** giveth more [*and more*] grace. Wherefore **He** saith, **God** resisteth [*to lay siege against*] the proud [*the one insisting on his own way*], but giveth grace unto the humble [*the one submitting to God's way*].

The **PREMISE OF HUMILITY** is that God gives grace to the humble. He is the Source for help against the villain of unity. He is Who we are to run to for grace—His divine help in time of need.

- i. **SUBMISSION** to God (James 4:7)
- ii. **COMMUNION** with God (James 4:8a)
- iii. **CONFESSION** of Sin (James 4:8b)
- iv. **DEVOTION** to God (James 4:8c)
- v. **AFFLICTION** over sin

This *practice of humility* will lead us to live with a **VISIBLE** Biblical unity by having the right **VISION** of unity.

2. Our **VISION** of **UNITY**—**LOWLINESS** (Ephesians 4:2-6)

a. Our **VIEW** of **SELF**—“*lowliness*”

This word, “*lowliness*” speaks of humility. This “*lowliness*” is a true estimation of one’s self. It is seeing ourselves from God’s perspective

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly [*arrogantly*] than he ought to think; but to think soberly [*proper view of one's self*], according as **God** hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

b. Our VIEW of **GOD**—“*meekness*”

“*Meekness*” is often seen as weakness when it is better seen as **POWER UNDER CONTROL**. A broken stallion is meek as it still retains all of its power yet now is useful to its master.

c. Our VIEW of **OTHERS**—“*longsuffering, forbearing*”

This word, “*longsuffering*” speaks of **PATIENT RESTRAINT** with respect of persons (Wuest). This characteristic speaks self-restraint which is not quickly retaliate when wronged by others.

This word translated, “*forbearing*” carries the idea of **ENDURANCE**. It is displayed in a loving action that is continuous and unconditional. It is seen a person who is not willing to give up on a relationship.

d. Our VIEW of the **CHURCH**—“*There is one body*”

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as **Thou, Father, art in Me**, and **I in Thee**, that they also may be one in **Us**: that the world may believe that **Thou** hast sent **Me**.

Colossians 3:14-15 And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. **15** And let the peace of **God** rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.



Our **WORTHY WALK** is explained, first, by **WALKING IN UNITY**. We must understand that the **VILLAIN OF UNITY** is our **LUSTFUL FLESH** which we must battle against, with **HUMILITY**, in the power of the Spirit. With a **RENEWED VISION**, we must have a right view of ourselves, God, others, and the Church. “*Endeavoring to keep the unity of the **Spirit** in the bond of peace.*”

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!