



Sunday, June 23, 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)

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

Here in chapter 4 Paul moves into the practical portion of his letter to the saints at Ephesus. 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.

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.

C. Walk in DIVERSITY (4:7-10)

The beauty of our unity within the Church is best displayed in a UNIFIED DIVERSITY. This diversity when DISPLAYED IN HUMILITY will promote unity within the body of Christ.

D. Walk in MATURITY (4:11-16)

God has provided GIFTED MINISTERS in order to help train His people for GOSPEL MINISTRY through a GROWING SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

1. God's PROVISION—GIFTED MINISTERS (11)

The “*pastor/ teacher*” is called upon to HEED, LEAD, and FEED the flock that has been entrusted to their care (Act 20:28). This is not an end in itself but simply a means to God's end for ALL of us which is Christian service.

2. God's PURPOSE—GOSPEL MINISTRY (12)

God has *given gifted men* to help the local church be what it is supposed to be. He has given these men to both EQUIP and EDIFY His church through the FAITHFUL MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD to their hearts.

a. EQUIPPING the SAINTS of CHRIST

i. The PROCESS of “PERFECTING”

Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

a) POSITIONAL Perfection—PAST

There is POSITIONAL perfection which takes place at the moment of salvation when we are complete in Christ. This is when we were SAVED by Jesus Christ (cf. Col. 2:10).

b) PERFECT Perfection—FUTURE

There is PERFECT perfection which is something yet future when we get to heaven. This is when we BECOME LIKE JESUS CHRIST (cf. 1 John 3:2).

c) PRACTICAL Perfection—PRESENT

Then there is PRACTICAL perfection which is what Paul is speaking of here in Ephesians 4. This is our day-to-day sanctification. This is the process of our BECOMING LIKE JESUS CHRIST. (cf. 2 Corinthians 3:18)

“For the perfecting of the saints,...” (Eph 4:12) – “*Perfecting*” carries the idea of equipping for service.

God has given gifted men—pastor/ teachers—to bring the saints to the PRACTICAL perfection through the ministry of the Word aided by the Holy Spirit.

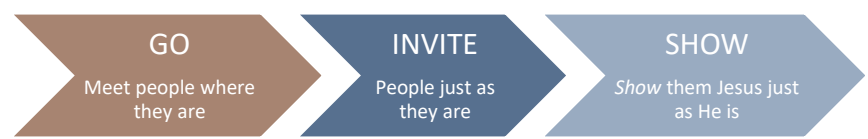
Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

Col 1:28 Whom [Christ] we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man PERFECT in Christ Jesus:

ii. The PURPOSE is “for the WORK of the MINISTRY”

“...for the work of the ministry,...” (Eph 4:12) – speaks of the ministry of the church as it seeks to reach its Jerusalem for Christ through **disciple-making**. This is everything that is necessary to take place in order for the church to be functioning properly. It is Christian service. **Everybody is to be involved someway in the ministry.**

Consider Christ’s last commands before His ascension (Acts 1:8 & Matthew 28:19-20).



b. **EDIFYING** the BODY of CHRIST

“...for the edifying of the body of Christ.” (Eph 4:12) – To “edify” is to build up. This building up process develops and produces a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, by the grace of God. The goal then is to bring the body of Christ to fulfill its full potential of bringing glory to God. It is to **unify** the Church to advance the kingdom of God.

Spiritual growth is **SEEN**, not primarily **HEARD**. It isn’t how much **BIBLE** someone **KNOWS** but how much **LOVE** someone **SHOWS**.



Our **WORTHY WALK** is explained by **WALKING IN MATURITY**. God has **PROVIDED** the church with **GIFTED MINISTERS** for the **PURPOSE** of **GOSPEL MINISTRY**. Through the ministry of the Word, every believer is **EQUIPPED** and **EDIFIED** for and **EXPECTED** to be involved in the “*work of the ministry*.”

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



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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!