

Sunday, July 7, 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)**
- C. Walk in DIVERSITY (4:7-10)**
- 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.

3. God's PARTICULARS—GROWING MATURITY (4:13-16)

The “*perfecting of the saint*” is the process of DEVELOPING Christlikeness in order to DISPLAY that Christlikeness in “*the work of [Gospel] ministry.*”

God's desire is for His saints to GROW IN MATURITY. Here in verses 13-16, Paul lays out particular marks of this maturity. He describes what it should look like. Paul explains that this spiritual maturity should be seen in a DEVELOPING CHRISTLIKENESS, by DOCTRINAL CONSTANCY, the DISPLAY of CHARITY, and by a DETERMINED COMMUNITY. In each of these we see the impact of the MINISTRY OF THE WORD upon their lives.

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

a. MATURITY marked by DEVELOPING CHRISTLIKENESS (4:13)

Romans 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation [*encouragement*] grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

This “*knowledge*” is a more complete and precise kind of “*knowledge.*” It is a deeper more intimate “*knowledge*” of Christ. It is a transforming truth kind of “*knowledge.*” It is a kind of “*knowledge*” whereby we are changed more into Christlikeness.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed [*changed into something useful*] by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We must get serious about this transformation process. It is a DAILY PROCESS OF SURRENDER. It is a DAILY PROCESS OF CHANGE.

1 Peter 1:14-15 As obedient children, not fashioning [*conforming*] yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: **15** But as **He** which hath called you is holy [*set apart from sin*], so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Q: How can we then live a transformed life of worship when the world in which we live is dominated by sin?

This RENEWAL PROCESS is a REPLACEMENT PROCESS.


Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after [*according to*] the image of **Him** that created him:

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

It takes TIME IN GOD'S WORD to maintain a TRANSFORMED LIFE.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the **Lord**, are changed [*metamorphosis*] into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the **Spirit** of the **Lord**.

John 13:14-15 If I then, *your Lord and Master*, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example [*a pattern to be imitated*], that **YE SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU**.

 Our WORTHY WALK is explained by WALKING IN MATURITY. Our spiritual maturity is marked by a DEVELOPING CHRISTLIKENESS. This process takes place as our minds are RENEWED with the truths of God's Word. The **Spirit of God** takes the **Word of God** and TRANSFORMS us into the likeness of the **Son of God**.

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!