



Sunday, July 21, 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)

- A. Walk **WORTHY** (4:1)
- 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 ([Acts 20:28](#)).

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)

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 through 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)

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**.

b. **MATURITY** marked by **DOCTRINAL CONSTANCY** (4:14)

Paul warns against the danger of **SPIRITUAL INSTABILITY** of the **BELIEVER** and he also warns of the **SUBTLE METHODOLOGIES** of the **DECEIVERS**—the false teachers.

a. **MATURITY** marked by **DISPLAYED CHARITY** (4:15)

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as **Christ** also hath loved us, and hath given **Himself** for us an offering and a sacrifice to **God** for a sweetsmelling savour.

To be a "*follower of God*" is to "*walk in love*." (See John 13:34; 1 John 4:8)

Matthew 20:28 Even as the **Son of Man** came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give **His** life a ransom for many.

1 John 4:20 If a man say, "I love **God**," and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love **God** whom he hath not seen?

A LIFE OF TRUTH SPOKEN WITH LOVE CONSIDERS OTHERS.

Romans 12:9-10 Let love be without dissimulation [*hypocrisy*]. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. **10** Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

b. **MATURITY** marked by a **DETERMINED COMMUNITY** (4:16)

"From Whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, ..." (**Eph 4:16**) – Both Greek words translated, "*fitly joined together*" and "*compacted*" are present participles indicating an ongoing process. The "*whole body is [being] fitly joined together and [being] compacted*."


This verse is all about the **LOVING COMMUNITY MINDSET** of the church as everyone works in cooperation to advance the kingdom of God.

Love is more than **PERSONAL ABILITY**: **1 Corinthians 13:1** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ...yet without love it is nothing!

Love is more than **SPIRITUAL ABILITY**: **1 Corinthians 13:2** And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ...yet without love it is nothing!

Love is more than **PERSONAL CHARITY**: **1 Corinthians 13:3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. ...yet without love it is nothing!

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a Charity [*self-sacrificing love*] suffereth long [*is patient*], and is kind [*generous*]; charity envieth not [*ill will towards others*]; charity vaunteth not [*does not parade*] itself, is not puffed up [*inflated with pride*], **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly [*rudely*], seeketh not her own [*way*], is not easily provoked [*offended/ takes things personally*], thinketh no evil [*keeps no inventory of wrongs*]; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity [*does not find pleasure in other's sin*], but rejoiceth in the truth [*devoted to truth*]; **7** Beareth [*under*] all things, believeth [*ready to believe*] all things, hopeth [*maintains hope in*] all things, endureth [*stable without weakening*] all things. **8** Charity never faileth: ...

 Our **WORTHY WALK** is explained by **WALKING IN MATURITY**. Our spiritual maturity is also marked by **DISPLAYED CHARITY** and a **DETERMINED COMMUNITY**. Our individual diligence as a teachable **TIMOTHY**, a ministering **PAUL**, and an encouraging **BARNABAS** enables a local body to most effectively minister to one another as a **LOVING COMMUNITY**.

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!