



Sunday, August 4, 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)

Having spoken of the Church’s diversity with individual’s spiritual gifts, Paul now draws our attention to some specific gifts displayed in the church. God has provided GIFTED MINISTERS in order to help train His people for GOSPEL MINISTRY through a GROWING SPIRITUAL MATURITY. Paul explains that this spiritual maturity should be seen through the impact of the MINISTRY OF THE WORD upon their lives.

- a. MATURITY marked by DEVELOPING CHRISTLIKENESS (4:13)
- b. MATURITY marked by DOCTRINAL CONSTANCY (4:14)
- c. MATURITY marked by DISPLAYED CHARITY (4:15)
- d. MATURITY marked by a DETERMINED COMMUNITY (4:16)

Being a DETERMINED COMMUNITY means that each member seeks to intentionally and faithfully grow as a TEACHABLE TIMOTHY being taught the Word, while MINISTERING THE WORD to others as a PAUL, and ENCOURAGING others as a BARNABAS.

E. Walk in PURITY (4:17-24)

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in **Christ**, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

He emphasizes this **CHANGE** by drawing our attention to **CONTRASTS**. He contrasts the “old man” ([Eph 4:17-19](#); [Eph 4:22](#)) with our “new man” ([Eph 4:23-24](#)). “Lying” is replaced with “truth” ([Eph 4:25](#)); sinful “anger” with righteous “anger” ([Eph 4:26](#)); stealing with sharing ([Eph 4:28](#)); destructive “communication” with constructive ([Eph 4:29](#)); “bitterness, wrath and anger” ([Eph 4:31](#)) with “kindness and forgiveness” ([Eph 4:32](#)).

1. The **CONDITION** of the **OLD** Man (4:17-19)

Proverbs 23:7a For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: ...

a. The state of his **MIND** (4:17-18a)

The state of his mind is characterized by “vanity” ([Eph 4:17](#)) or spiritually futile and empty because they are “alienated from the life of God” ([Eph 4:18](#)), being “without God” and therefore they “have no hope” ([Eph 2:12](#)).

Paul tells us the problem with the state of the mind of the “old man.”

i. He is Spiritually **DESOLATE** (17b)

Keep in mind that **SINFUL THINKING** produces **SINFUL** LIVING. **SPIRIT-LED THINKING** produces **SPIRIT-LED** LIVING.

Galatians 5:16 *This* I say then, “Walk in the **Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

ii. He is Spiritually **DARKENED** (18a)

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of **Christ**, **Who** is the image of **God**, should shine unto them.

iii. He is Spiritually DISTANT (18b)

“...being alienated from the life of God through ignorance that is in them...”
([Eph 4:18](#)) – “*Being alienated*” speaks of spiritual separation from God. This speaks of man’s state prior to being reconciled to God. (cf. [Eph 2:12-13](#))

b. The state of his HEART (4:18c-20)

i. He is spiritually IGNORANT

ii. He is spiritually INSENSITIVE

iii. He is spiritually INSATIABLE

[Romans 1:24](#) Wherefore **God** also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

[Ephesians 4:20](#) But ye have not so learned **Christ**;

[Matthew 5:16](#) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your **Father** which is in heaven.



Our WORTHY WALK is explained by WALKING IN PURITY. Our new life in Christ is to BEAR THE MARKS OF CHRIST not the marks of the world. OUR NEW LIFE SHOULD LOOK DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT THAN THE OLD. In order to walk in purity, we must FORSAKE THE OLD MAN and EMBRACE THE NEW by “*learning Christ*” —renewing our minds, having a humble, teachable heart.

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!