



Sunday, December 15, 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**—**VERTICALLY** before **GOD** (4:1-32)

In Ephesians 4, Paul addresses our *“worthy walk”* as it relates **VERTICALLY BEFORE GOD**. In these verses he addresses some key areas which help **PREPARE** the believer be more effective in his ministry **HORIZONTALLY TOWARD OTHERS**. In order for each of us to **HORIZONTALLY** minister to others, we must first take care of our **VERTICAL** relationship before God.

B. Walk **WORTHY**—**HORIZONTALLY** toward **OTHERS** (5:1-6:9)

1. Walk in **LOVE DISPLAYING** the **LOVE** of **CHRIST** (5:1-2)
2. Walk in **LIGHT REFLECTING** the **LIGHT** of **CHRIST** (5:3-14)
3. Walk in **WISDOM** in the **WORD** of **CHRIST** (5:15-17)
4. Walk in **STEP** with the **SPIRIT** of **CHRIST** (5:18-21)

Keep in mind the context that this section falls within. Paul is speaking about our **INFLUENCE** in our **WORTHY WALK**, **HORIZONTALLY** toward others. The law of love is to determine our attitude. *“...but by love serve one another.”*—Galatians 5:13b
To **WALK IN LOVE** is to live a life of loving sacrifice to our Jerusalem as we display our supreme love for the Father.

a. The **COMMAND** to Walk in the Spirit (18)

Paul commands that a believer would be living a life that is carried along by the Holy Spirit just as continual wind would move a ship as it fills its sails. This takes **REPEATED YIELDING** by placing one's self in the position of being influenced by God's Spirit.

b. The **CHARACTERISTICS** of a Spirit-filled walk

i. **GRACE** on your **LIPS** (19)

a) The **OBJECT** is **OTHERS**

b) The **ATTITUDE** is **JOY**

A Spirit-filled heart will be overflowing with jubilant praise in worship to God. This attitude of the heart is vital to the blessing of others.

Colossians 3:16 Let the Word of **Christ** dwell in you richly [*abundantly*] in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the **Lord**.

ii. **GRATITUDE** in your **HEART** (20)

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of **God** in **Christ Jesus** concerning you.

One who is controlled by God's Spirit understands "*the will of God*" to be thankful and also sees the good **IN** the bad. He understands that "*God works all things together for good*" (Romans 8:28) in his life.

"...unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;" (**Eph 5:20**) – A Spirit-filled believer is thankful because he acknowledges God's sovereign rule and providential orchestration in his life.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the **Father** of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

iii. GENTLENESS in your RELATIONSHIPS (21)

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the **Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to **God** and the **Father** by **Him**.

Instead of dominating others and lording over them, Spirit-filled people are humble being dominated by the Holy Spirit so as to humbly serve others.

a) SERVING OTHERS (21a)

Biblical submission does not refer to equality but hierarchy. I carries the idea of *willingly placing yourself under*. This command is for a *willing* submission.

Biblical *submission* fights against pride. Pride DEMANDS ONE'S OWN WAY while HUMILITY GIVES WAY—it does not demand one's own rights.

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

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better [*more important*] than themselves.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **35** By this shall all *men* know that ye are **My** disciples, if ye have love one to another.

b) SUBMITTING to GOD (21b)



Our WORTHY WALK is further explained by WALKING IN STEP with the SPIRIT of CHRIST. The CHARACTERISTICS of a SPIRIT-FILLED WALK are evidenced as GRACE on your lips, GRATITUDE in your heart, and GENTLENESS toward your relationships as you SERVE OTHERS in SUBMISSION TO 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!