



Sunday, December 22, 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)
5. Walk in **HARMONY** in the **WAY** of **CHRIST** (5:22-6:9)

In chapter 4, Paul calls for us to **WALK IN UNITY** considering our **POSTURE** in **CHRIST**. It is a posture of humility as we *“Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Ephesians 4:3). With great effort we are to **PURSUE HARMONY** within these specific relationships. We do this with a **POSTURE OF HUMILITY**, an **ATTITUDE OF LOVE**, being **MOTIVATED BY UNITY**.

a. Introduction: The Mystery of Marriage (5:31-32)

i. The CORRUPTION of the MARRIAGE INSTITUTION

Ecclesiastes 1:3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 3:10-11 I have seen the travail, which **God** hath given to the sons of men to be exercised [*humbled*] in it. **11 He** hath made every *thing* beautiful [*appropriate*] in **His** time; also **He** hath set the world [*eternity*] in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that **God** maketh from the beginning to the end.

Solomon is right. Life without God truly is hopeless, lacking any eternal purpose.

ii. The CRISIS of MARRIAGE INFLUENCE

 What then is the cause for this CORRUPTION OF MARRIAGE?

iii. The CHRIST in MARRIAGE ILLUSTRATED

At its core, MISPLACED AUTHORITY is the cause for the CORRUPTION OF MARRIAGE.

a) A SACRED INSTITUTION ORDAINED by GOD

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

God designed marriage for one man and one woman to be joined together in this life-long sacred union.

Genesis 2:21-22 "And the **LORD God** caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and **He** took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the **LORD God** had taken from man, made **He** a woman, and brought her unto the man."

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

b) A **SECRET ILLUSTRATION** whose **OBJECT** is **CHRIST**

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning **Christ** and the church.

"This is a great mystery: ..." (**Eph 5:32**) – This *"mystery"* carries the idea of a secret thing that is unknown to human reasoning.

"...but I speak concerning Christ and the church." (**Eph 5:32**) – Paul clarifies that this *"great mystery"* concerns the illustration of *"Christ and the church."*

c) **SCRIPTURE'S INSPIRATION** is to be **OBEYED**

Ephesians 5:33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of **God**, and is profitable for doctrine [*teaching what is truth*], for reproof [*conviction of sin / what is wrong*], for correction [*how to make the wrong right*], for instruction in righteousness [*how to stay right*]: That the man of **God** may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. **21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of **God** spake as *they were* moved by the **Holy Ghost**.

The choice is laid out before us. Do we believe that these are the very words of God? Is He the final authority? Will I obey what God says?



Our **WORTHY WALK** is explained by **WALKING IN HARMONY** in the **WAY** of **CHRIST**. We see how the **MARRIAGE INSTITUTION** has been **CORRUPTED**. This has led to our **MARRIAGE INFLUENCE** in **CRISIS**. Yet within the *"great mystery"* of marriage we see **MARRIAGE ILLUSTRATED** best in **JESUS CHRIST**. Thus, we commit to keep God as the final **AUTHORITY OF MARRIAGE**, **CHRIST** as the **OBJECT OF MARRIAGE**, and our faithful **OBEDIENCE IN MARRIAGE**.

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!