

## Ephesians

Introduction: A general letter; not written to the city of Ephesus; city name is actually blank; a letter that was to be delivered to all the churches of Asia; personal greetings are absent. The Ephesian church became the custodian of the letter.

Companion of Ephesians is Colossians. In Ephesians the emphasis is on the Body of Christ; Colossians shows the Head. We need them both.

It divides exactly in half:

chaps. 1-3-doctrinal; deal with the endless wealth of/in Christ; theological

chaps. 4-6 - practical; tell us how to appropriate this wealth of Christ; Chap 4 starts with “walk”

### Greeting;

- a. **Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus;** we have a weird concept of apostleship today. Apostle is a function, not a title, that God has given to him.
- b. **By the will of God**-no one can aspire to it
- c. **To the saints who are at \_\_\_\_\_ and who are faithful in Christ Jesus;** not only saints, but the faithful ones. No one can build the church without faithful saints. The foundation of the Body is commitment; a man who is willing to walk in things he does not understand. One who can represent someone other than himself.
- d. **Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.** Grace (*charis*)-a) the unmerited favor of God; He is giving us what we do not deserve. Peace-  
oneness, quietness, rest; cease from striving

## SIT

### Eph 1:3-23 The Believer as God's Child

#### 1:3-1:14 God's blessings for us

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just [inasmuch] as ...*

Vs 3-14: All one sentence; longest sentence in the Bible; 270 words that are one progressive thought.

There are many kinds of blessings:

Material and physical - enough food to eat, etc. These God supplies to everyone equally:

He sends the rain on the just and the unjust.

Soul-type blessings -- mind, will, emotions. Well being; comfort. These vary greatly from one person to another.

Spiritual blessings - God gives these to all believers, and what we have here is a list of these blessings

1. Chosen in Christ by the Father:
  - a. *He **chose us** in Him (Jesus) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.* We are not rejected.
  - b. *He predestined us to **adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to himself.* According to Hebrew law, a natural son can be disowned or disinherited, but an adopted son can never be.
  - c. *To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He **freely bestowed** on us in the Beloved.* A refrain that is repeated in vs. 12 and 14.

- i. Grace here is more than unmerited favor; it carries with it the power to accomplish something in the life of the believer.
  - ii. II Cor 4:15--*the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.*
- 2. Redeemed by the Son:
  - a. *In Him we have redemption [deliverance] through His blood*
    - i. Redemption-you are God's prized possession; He paid a tremendous price for you
    - ii. Deliverance-you are not to give place to the enemy anymore
  - b. *The forgiveness of our trespasses*, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us. How do we appropriate forgiveness?
    - i. Accept it by faith-I Jn 1:8-9
    - ii. Extend it to others-Matt 6:12-15
  - c. *In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will*
    - i. He enlightens us; God wants us to be aware of what He is doing; we should not be caught off guard.
    - ii. He transforms us-Rom 12:2: *be transformed by the renewing of your mind*
    - iii. We can hear God speak to us. Jn 15:14-15: *You are My friends, if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves; for a slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.* A definition of friendship is open communication.
    - iv. Why do we need to know? Because we are an active participant in His plan and ministry
    - v. *Mystery of His will-*
      - 1. The kingdom of God: Mk 4:11-*To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables*
      - 2. The Gentiles are grafted into the tree and that the Jews will be re-grafted at some point: Rom 11:25-*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery-so that you will not be wise in your own estimation-that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;*
      - 3. The mystery is now known:
        - a. Rom 16:25-*Now unto Him Who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith.*
        - b. I Cor 2:7-*But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory.*
      - 4. Concerning the rapture of the church: I Cor 15:50-52-*Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet;*

5. Gentiles are fellow heirs: The kingdom includes more that we are ready to acknowledge. Eph 3:3-10-*that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.*
  6. The flesh does not understand it: Eph 5:32-*This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.*
  7. Eph 6:19-*and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel;*
  8. Jesus, himself, and His indwelling presence is the mystery: Col 1:26-27; 2:2-3-*the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ... that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
    - vi. *The summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth.*
  - d. *In Him also, we have obtained an inheritance*
    - i. We both are an inheritance and have an inheritance.
    - ii. God's principle of opposites: to get you have to give; in order to live you must first die; to be first you must be last.
      1. in the world you gain an inheritance when someone else dies
      2. in the kingdom we gain an inheritance when we die
      3. when Jesus died He got you and me as an inheritance
    - iii. Our inheritance is a gift of God based on our adoption; we become sons of God and brothers of Jesus.
  - e. *Praise of His glory*
3. Sealed by the Holy Spirit
  - a. We listened to the message of truth
  - b. We believed the gospel of salvation
  - c. We were sealed in Jesus with the Holy Spirit
    - i. *A pledge of our inheritance-the earnest, downpayment*

- ii. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Jesus; Jesus seals us with the Holy Spirit
- iii. A seal represents ownership

### **1:15-1:19a God's desire for us**

1. *Love for all the saints*-this is a trademark of a Christian.
2. *do not cease giving thanks for you*-thankfulness is a bitterness detector
3. *making mention of you in my prayers*-when we have an investment we care
4. Paul's prayer for us:
  - a. *Give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*
    - i. Wisdom: James 3:17
    - ii. Revelation: Matt 16:13-18
    - iii. Knowledge: epignosis-true, intimate knowledge
  - b. *That the eyes of your heart may be enlightened*-
    - i. Jesus is the truth, the way and the life; He is the light
    - ii. That we may be able to see clearly what the motives of our heart are -- Jer 17:9-10
  - c. *That you may know what is the hope of His calling*
    - i. Hope is essential for faith (Heb 11:1)
    - ii. Addictive behaviors are the fruit of hopelessness
    - iii. A hope that does not disappoint (Rom 5:5)
  - d. *That you may know what are riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*
    - i. We may understand our value to God
    - ii. We can see the glory God receives in us and that will motivate us
  - e. *That you may know what is the surpassing greatness of the power toward us who believe*

### **1:19b-23 God's power in Jesus**

*According to the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when*

1. *He raised Him from the dead*
  - a. The proof of God's power is raising Jesus from the dead
  - b. The importance of three days and nights in the grave
2. *seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places*
  - a. a position of rest--God rested on the seventh day of creation; He had completed the work
  - b. Jesus' work is done
3. *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.*
  - a. The principle of authority/submission
    - i. To have authority you must be under authority--Luke 7:2-9
    - ii. As Jesus walked in perfect submission all authority was given unto Jesus-in heaven and on earth-Matt 28:18
  - b. Some of that authority has been delegated to us
4. The church as the Body of Christ:
  - a. *He put all things in subjection under His feet*
  - b. *Gave Him as the head over all things to the church*
    - i. Which is His body
    - ii. *The fullness of Him who fills all in all*

### **Eph 2:1-18 The Believer as a Member of Christ's Body**

1. **2:1-3 We were once dead in sin**
  - a. Sin: who we were; not what we did

- b. We were under the control of Satan
    - a. Living according to the desires of our flesh
    - b. Vs 12-separate from Christ
      - i. Excluded from God's people
      - ii. Strangers
      - iii. Having no hope
      - iv. Without God; may have religion, that is not enough
2. **2:4-5 God's mercy: We are now alive with Christ**
- a. *But God* -- what beautiful words
  - b. Mercy-God withholding from us what we deserve
    - i. We deserve judgement
    - ii. Mercy always triumphs over judgement: James 2:13
  - c. An expression of His love
    - i. How can we love without showing mercy
    - ii. Imitate God
  - d. We have been made alive with Christ
3. **2:6 and seated us with Christ in the heavenly places**
- a. A position of favor-Esther found favor in the sight of the king
  - b. A position of rest
4. **2:7-10 God's grace extended**
- a. Grace-God giving us what we do not deserve
    - i. It is a gift-Eph 2:8--*doron*: sacrifice
    - ii. It is a gift-Eph 3:7--*dorea*: freely, without cause
  - b. The unmerited favor of God
    - i. He looks upon us with kindness
  - c. *Surpassing riches of His grace*-no limit
    - i. *We are saved*
    - ii. *We are His workmanship ... for good works*
    - iii. We have been brought near by the blood of Christ
    - iv. He has become our peace-cessation of hostilities
    - v. We are now included in the promise given to Abraham
  - d. It is the way by which we receive salvation
    - i. Rom 5:15-17
    - ii. Eph 2:5-9
  - e. It is the power to do what He has gifted us to do; it is necessary for ministry
    - i. Rom 12:3-8
    - ii. Gal 1:15-17; 2:9
  - f. It is the solution for sin; not law
    - i. Rom 5:20-21
    - ii. Rom 6:14-16
  - g. It is given for good works
    - i. II Cor 8:1-2
    - ii. II Cor 9:8
  - h. We can abuse grace
    - i. II Cor 6:1-receive it in vain
    - ii. Gal 5:4-fallen from grace
  - i. We can extend grace
    - i. Eph 4:29
4. **2:11-18 The one-ness of the Body**
- a. Our former state (vs 11-12)
    - i. Separate from God's people

- ii. Separate from Christ
- iii. Strangers to the covenants of promise
- iv. Without hope and without God
- b. Our current state (vs 13-18)
  - i. We are brought near by the blood of Jesus
  - ii. He has brought peace, breaking down the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile
  - iii. He has made both groups into one new man, thus establishing peace
  - iv. He reconciled us into one body and made us a new humanity
- c. Application to today
  - i. There was division between Jews and Gentiles in the early church
  - ii. Today there is division between many different Christians
  - iii. We must learn to discern the Body of Christ--I Cor 11:27-31

### **Eph 2:19-2:22 The Believer as God's Building**

1. **2:19 The Household**
2. **2:20 The Foundation**
  - a. Apostles and prophets
  - b. Wise master builder--I Cor 3:10-15
  - c. An unwise master builder causes hurt and damage
  - d. The foundation must be Jesus, himself, in all His mercy, grace and fullness
  - e. We commit people to Jesus not to ourselves; do not allow people to worship leaders
  - f.
3. **2:21-22 Living stones**
  - a. God is not looking for quantity but quality; it is not wrong to have a vision of something big, but look for quality
  - b. We build relationships within the building; like building blocks
  - c. The cement that holds the stones together is commitment
  - d. When the stones are cemented by committed relationships they do not stray off
    - i. Bob Mumford's illustration of the piles of stones
    - ii. When I get home will I find that parts of my house have left?

### **Eph 3:1-21 Jesus, the Revealer of God's Mystery**

1. **3:1-7 God's intention--a corporate man**
  - a. The mystery revealed
    - i. Eph 3:6--Gentiles are now fellow members and fellow heirs
    - ii. Col 1:26-28--Christ in you
    - iii. Col 2:2--Christ, Himself
  - b. There is only one Christ
    - i. When Jesus walked the earth he was contained in one body
    - ii. That body died so that there could be a new Body with many members (I Cor 12:12)
    - iii. We see this by revelation; we need a spirit of wisdom and revelation (Eph 1:17)
    - iv.
2. **3:8-13 Paul's calling**
  - a. To preach the unfathomable riches of Christ
    - i. They are found in Christ himself
    - ii. God wants to bring us out of things and into Himself
  - b. To make plain the mystery

- i. The many sided wisdom of God might be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies--the enemy
  - ii. When the Body is fragmented we do not possess power; when the Body comes together God's wisdom is revealed
- 3. 3:14-21 To be the dwelling place of Christ**
- a. There is only one household, one family--the whole family
  - b. To be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the man within
  - c. That we may comprehend with all saints: revelation is not exclusive to a group of people

## WALK

### Eph 4:1-32 The Corporate Life of The Body

#### 1. 4:1-6 Life in the Body

- a. Begins the practical half
- b. Walk: how we conduct ourselves; how we lead our life
- c. We start by knowing who we are: blessed and at rest in/with Jesus
- d. Worthy of the calling (vs 7--grace) with which we have been called
  - i. with all humility
  - ii. with all patience
  - iii. showing forbearance to one another in love
  - iv. be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
- e. Because there is only one:
  - i. compare vs 4-6 with I Cor 12:4-6
    - 1. varieties of gifts--one body, one Spirit, one hope of our calling
    - 2. varieties of ministries--one Lord, one faith, one baptism
    - 3. varieties of effects (workings) --one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all
  - ii. There is only God

#### 2. 4:7-13 The gifts of Jesus

- a. Three lists of gifts given: I Cor 12:4-6
  - i. Gifts of the Father: Rom 12:1-13
  - ii. Gifts of the Son: Eph 4:11-12
  - iii. Gifts of the Holy Spirit: I Cor 12:7-11
  - iv. They all operate only by grace
- b. The gifts of Jesus are people--ascension gifts
  - i. Ascension gifts
  - ii. The full ministry of Jesus was given severally to men
- c. The gifts are job descriptions, not titles
  - i. servanthood
  - ii. Jesus washing the feet of the disciples
  - iii. Matt 20:25
- d. Purposes:
  - i. Given to equip the saints for the work of the ministry
  - ii. To build up the body of Christ
    - 1. until we attain to the unity of the faith (doctrine)
    - 2. until we attain to the knowledge [*epignosis*] of the Son of God
    - 3. to a mature man -- singular
    - 4. to the measure (standard) of the stature (maturity) which belongs to the fulness of Christ
- e. The full ministry of Jesus

i. Apostle

1. Jesus: Heb 3:1--Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus
2. N.T. definition: Ones sent with authority; they are to be architects of the local church government, laying foundation and seeing the Church fitting together as an organization with order and unity.
3. Result: Love of the Body
4. The counsel given: He will desire to bring definition to individual ministries, helping them to be submitted in proper order and authority.
5. Illustration: Marriage counsel--foundation is not firm; need structure

ii. Prophet

1. Jesus: Luke 24:19-Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.
2. N.T. definition: Has special insight from God; they see that everything is lined up with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of the Church; dropping the plumb line they discern where change must take place.
3. Result: Love of God; others hear God more clearly
4. The counsel given: He usually calls for change (repentance); he points to freshly revealed direction from the Lord; also brings correction where needed.
5. Illustration: Both husband and wife need to repent

iii. Evangelist

1. Jesus: Mark 1:14--Jesus came ... preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.
2. N.T. definition: They proclaim the good news and equip the saints to share the Gospel effectively; they encourage others to go and win the lost.
3. Result: Love for sinners; desire to see the lost saved
4. The counsel given: They deal with fruitlessness within the church; he calls people to fresh experience in the Lord; joyfully he tells the good news.
5. Illustration: You need a fresh experience with God

iv. Pastor

1. Jesus: Heb 13:20--God ... brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep.
2. N.T. definition: They have the responsibility as caretakers of the flock of God; they work to bring harmony to the local church; those who are elders are also known as bishops or shepherds.
3. Result: Love of the saints; desire to be in fellowship together
4. The counsel given: He will call for loving relationships bringing unity in the local church; he is a caretaker of the flock (Heb 13:17) and apt to teach; he has an eye to locate still water and green pastures.
5. Illustration: You need to love each other more.

v. Teacher

1. Jesus: John 3:2--Rabbi ... a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles ... except God be with him.

2. N.T. definition: Line upon line, precept upon precept, they focus to impart the Word of God, bringing insight and stability within the church; they should work from an apostle's plan for the church.
  3. Result: Love for the word of God; desire to know Jesus
  4. The counsel given: He has an ability to see insight into the Word; he will invite you to grasp fresh concept from the Bible and walk in the insight he shares with you.
  5. Illustration: You need to go to a marriage seminar.
- f. Other ministries:**
1. I Cor 12:28-30--Workers of miracles; gifts of healing; helps; administrations; varieties of tongues; interpretation of tongues.
  2. Acts 6; I Tim 3--deacons
  3. Others--music, dance, intercession, artists, craftsmen, scribes
- g. Matt 10:40-42--the benefit of receiving the ministries**
- h. Study and define--if by insight and/or prophetic word you believe you know what gifting you are; study that gift until you understand it.**
- i. I Cor 12:28--first apostles, second prophets, third teachers... This is the order in which the ministry must occur, not importance or heirarchy.**
- 3. 4:14-16 Growing up**
- a. Babies**
- i. Babies are good, but they require lots of care
    1. they need milk, not solid food
    2. they cannot feed themselves
    3. make messes and need someone to clean up after them
  - ii. Baby Christians are like babies--I Cor 3:1-4
    1. they cannot take solid food, i.e. correction
    2. they cannot feed themselves, i.e. hear God on their own
    3. make messes, i.e. jealousy, strife, division
  - iii. Babies must grow up; they cannot remain babies
    1. babies --> children --> adults
    2. Eph 4:14--we are no longer to be children (infants)
    3. I Pet 2:2--we are to grow in respect to salvation
    4. God has provision for growing: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers--so we become mature: Matt 5:48
- b. Children are--Eph 4:14**
- i. Unstable
  - ii. Easily deceived
  - iii. Have a false opinion of themselves
- c. Adults**
- i. Speak the truth in love--Eph 4:15
  - ii. Are fitted and joined together--Eph 4:16; I Pet 2:5 (living stones)
  - iii. Proper working of each part; each one contributes--Eph 4:16
- d. I John 2:12-14**
- i. Children**
1. vs 12--*teknion*: infant
    - a. we enter the kingdom as babies; absolutely necessary
    - b. John 3:7--you must be born again
    - c. Matt 18:3--Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven

- d. The first thing we learn when we enter the kingdom is that Jesus died for our sins and all our sins are forgiven
  - e. In the natural, infants are high maintenance people--they do not much about living and are highly dependent upon others for care and feeding.
  - f. In the spiritual, they do not know how to pray, understand the Bible, and hear from God. They need someone to help them grow.
2. vs. 13--*paidion*: young child
- a. *you know the Father*
  - b. Very young children's conversation with us as parents centers around what they want or need. As they get older the conversation matures and the children begin to listen. As we grow in the kingdom, our prayers change from talking to conversations, where we listen.
  - c. I Cor 3:1-2
  - d. As we grow we try to discover who we are
- ii. Young men--*neaniskos*: youth
- 1. In the O.T. it also means one trained in the art of warfare
  - 2. Matt 19:16-21--the same word here for young man
  - 3. Age in the kingdom is not measured by how long you have been a Christian, but by how much you have grown.
  - 4. Both in the natural and the spiritual:
    - a. young men need to prove themselves;
    - b. they go through a period of becoming independent;
    - c. they tend to think they know more than they do;
    - d. they are often rebellious toward authority
  - 5. Characteristics of a young man (woman) in the kingdom are:
    - a. they have overcome Satan's attacks in their lives
    - b. they know God's word and have come to trust it from experience
  - 6. Young men are strong, but their strength is not one of endurance; they are sprinters and not marathon runners.
- iii. Fathers
- 1. vs. 13, 14--*pater*: fathers; a nourisher, protector, upholder
    - a. Matt 5:48--be mature as your Father is mature
    - b. Matt 6:4--Father sees in secret and rewards openly
    - c. Luke 11:13--Father gives good gifts to his children
  - 2. I Cor 4:14-17--A spiritual father stands in a father's place, caring for his spiritual children
    - a. When you become a father your priorities change
    - b. Fathers teach sons how to become a man--the skills of living and wisdom
    - c. Mothers teach their daughters how to become a woman
  - 3. *I have written to you fathers because you know Him who rules* (arche: also, from the beginning). You are submitted to God; your heart is set to be mature, like God.
  - 4. Characteristics of a father:
    - a. You can see Christ in him
    - b. He must be a man under authority

- c. He must love you; you can trust him because he loves you
- d. He must have a capacity for the vision for whom God wants you to be.
- e. He must agree to enter into this relationship when you go and ask
- f. He must hold you with an open hand
- e. The way in which we grow up is to put off and put on
- 4. 4:17-22 Put off the old self**
  - a. Do not be like the world in the futility of their mind
  - b. Lay aside the old self--deeds of the flesh
    - i. Things that others have done to us in the past
      - 1. People have hurt us
      - 2. Disappointments, bitterness, forgiveness
      - 3. I Pet 2:1--lay aside all malice
      - 4. Col 3:8--anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech
    - ii. Things that we have done in the past
      - 1. Futility and frustrations; mistakes and failures
      - 2. Pride and arrogance
      - 3. Lying and cheating: Eph 4:25
      - 4. Lay aside deed of darkness: Rom 13:12
      - 5. Eph 4:25--let him who steals steal no more
    - iii. Bondages of the past
      - 1. Matt 7:1-2--judgements of others and self
      - 2. Superstitions; bad traditions
- 5. 4:23-32 Put on the new self**
  - a. Eph 4:23--be renewed in the spirit of your mind
    - i. Contrast with the futility of the world's mind
    - ii. Learn to know Jesus
      - 1. Matt 11:29--take My yoke upon you
      - 2. Discipleship
    - iii. Have the mind of Jesus--Phil 2:5
      - 1. Humility
      - 2. Phil 2:4--care
      - 3. Phil 2:13--Hope; forgetting what lies behind, reach forward towards the goal
  - b. Put on the new self: Eph 4:24--change clothes; II Cor 5:17--old things gone, all things new
    - i. Become spiritual men in the likeness of God
      - 1. Rom 13:14--put on the Lord Jesus
      - 2. Gal 5:22-24--Put on the character of Jesus
      - 3. Heb 13:17--submit to those who have authority
    - ii. Walk in righteousness
      - 1. Right relationship with God: Rom 13:12--armor of light; Eph 6:14--breastplate of righteousness
      - 2. Right relationship with people: Col 3:12-17--put on compassion; put on love
    - iii. Walk in holiness
      - 1. to be holy is to be useful to God
      - 2. do what God has given you to do
      - 3. we are each a part of the body of Christ

## **Eph 5:1-6:9 The Corporate Life of the Believer**

### **1. 5:1-21 Imitate God**

- a. As children [*teknion*: teknon] imitate their parents
- b. Walk in love
  - i. Selflessly, as Christ loved and gave Himself an offering and sacrifice
  - ii. Selfishly, immorality, impurity, greed, filthiness, silly talk, coarse jesting
- c. Walk as children of the light
  - i. Trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord--essence of lordship
  - ii. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness
- d. Walk as wise
  - i. Make the most of our time--make it count
  - ii. Understand what the will of the Lord is
  - iii. Attitudes of the heart--giving thanks--because of reverence to God

### **2. 5:22-33 Marriage as the model**

- a. Men and women are equal in calling, but different in function
  - i. Gal 3:28--equal in redemption; the problem is not women in ministry, but rather an attitude of defiance
  - ii. They think differently: women--intuitively; men--analytical
  - iii. Men initiate; women respond::Jesus; church
- b. I Cor 11:1-3--*Christ is the head of every man (husband), and the man is the head of a woman (wife)*. God's divine order: Himself, Jesus, husband, wife
- c. Wives, be submitted to husbands
  - i. I Pet 3:1-6--an attitude, not words
  - ii. I Cor 11:5--head covering represents being under authority; she certainly is allowed to minister
  - iii. The only time Paul spoke in a law-like sense is when he said he does not allow a woman to "teach over" or usurp authority.
  - iv. The basic need of a man is to be respected; when a woman gets out of order there is uncertainty
  - v. We all need to be in proper submission
- d. Husbands, love your wives
  - i. The basic need of a woman is security, especially in the home. She finds that in the love of her husband; she needs to be reassured
  - ii. I Pet 3:7--weaker (fragile, more valuable) vessel. Men are like a big coffee mug; women are like a beautiful china cup.
  - iii. *live with your wives in an understanding way*
    - 1. Most men do not understand women--they are easily hurt
    - 2. Not understanding, as knowledge, but with compassion; she may not respond the way you think she should;
    - 3. The wife is an extension of the husband
    - 4. you need to show her affection, and she needs the security of your love.
  - iv. Some personal notes
    - 1. Wife is queen--#1 in my marriage; wife is to me as church is to Jesus
    - 2. We are one; we live as one and act as one; we must both agree before acting; when God speaks to me don't act until wife agrees.
    - 3. I must respond to the hurts of my wife the way I respond to the hurts of my body (vs 28)

4. Allow for my wife the same grace I demand from God (vs. 27)
- e. A model of the relationship between Christ and the church
- 3. 6:1-9 Relationships**
  - a. Children to parents: honor
  - b. Fathers (parents) to children
    - i. do not provoke to anger
      1. Inappropriate discipline produces anger
      2. Appropriate discipline produces repentance
    - ii. bring up in discipline and instruction in the Lord
      1. Age appropriate behavior/expectations/discipline
      2. Do not discipline out of anger, but out of a desire to instruct
  - c. Slaves to masters
  - d. Masters to slaves

## STAND

### Eph 6:10-22 The Full Armor of God

- 1. Two approaches**
  - a. The full armor of God and the five areas in our life the enemy tries to come against us
  - b. The final conflict showing the church standing against the Anti-christ and his world order
- 2. 6:10-13 Stand firm**
  - a. Be strong in the Lord
    - i. Involves our relationship with Jesus
    - ii. Goes back to sitting with Jesus in heavenly places
    - iii. We stand from a position of rest
  - b. In the strength [power] of His might
    - i. Knowing that God is powerful for you, not only for others
    - ii. God is for us and wants to do mighty things through us
  - c. All we need to do to stop the enemy is stand firm
    - i. Standing firm is a position of defending territory already conquered
    - ii. Repeated 3 times
    - iii. Satan tries to knock us off balance, but we become immovable
  - d. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood
    - i. Although it may appear so, people are not our enemy
    - ii. We are dealing with spiritual forces and must be dealt with in spiritual ways
    - iii. II Cor 10:3-5--powerful to the pulling down of strongholds.
    - iv. Phil 2:9--the name which is above every name
- 3. 6:14-17 The armor**
  - a. Mainly defensive
    - i. We occupy already; stand firm
    - ii. Do not turn your back on the enemy
  - b. Girding our loins with truth
    - i. Truth is a person, not a principle
    - ii. The enemy tries to bring indecision
  - c. Put on the breastplate of righteousness
    - i. The enemy attacks with condemnation
    - ii. Illustration of the race of I Cor 9:24-25; when you fall--

1. some get up, dust themselves off (repentance) and get back in the race
  2. some get up, leave the race and quit
  3. some get up, dust themselves off, never leave the track, but continue to dust themselves off and never get back into the race
  4. Another gets up, dusts himself off, and gets back into the race, but now he is running at a slower pace. He is running slower because he is writing rules on how not to fall. He runs slower and slower as he writes more rules; he thinks he can create something to keep him from falling. Heb 7:19--the law made nothing perfect. We get so involved with rules that we lose our relationship with Jesus.
- iii. Our righteousness is not anything out of ourselves--it is Jesus and Him alone
- iv. If our heart condemns us God is bigger than our heart--Rom 8:1
- d.** Our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
- i. The enemy attacks with anxiety.
  - ii. When things go wrong we are like the disciples: "Lord don't you care that we are perishing?" (Luke 4:38)
  - iii. Matt 6:25-34--Worry is:
    1. irreverent, because it does not trust God
    2. irrelevant, because it does not change anything
    3. irresponsible, because it wastes time and energy
- e.** Take up the [all covering] shield of faith
- i. Satan uses hurts and disappointments (fiery darts) to produce bitterness
  - ii. They come from other Christians
    1. Often we react the wrong way, and it makes matters worse; we need to act, not react.
    2. Ed Schmidt: People in the world never treated me like Christians did
    3. When people constantly criticize us there is usually an unmet need or unhealed hurt from the past acting.
- f.** Take the helmet of salvation
- i. Our biggest battle is in the mind.
  - ii. Satan will try to take away our hope--I Thes 5:8
  - iii. Hope is a joyful expectation; waiting to see God fulfill His promise to you
- g.** Take the sword of the Spirit
- i. The only aggressive weapon
  - ii. The book is a dead letter until God leads you to experience [rhema]; we do not quote a dead letter to the enemy.
- 4. 6:18-22 Prayer**
- a.** Pray in the spirit; more things can be done by praying in the spirit than any other way
  - b.** Pray on our behalf--need to pray for those in leadership in the church and not criticize. If you have a problem with someone pray for them

#### **Ephs 6:23-24 The Closing**

- 1. 6:23 Peace be to the brethren**
- 2. 6:24 Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ**