

EPHESIANS 5

1. Instead of going to the Gentiles to teach them about God, what did the Jews do?

-The Jews condemned the Gentiles, and did not want to even talk to them, or come close to them.

2. Why were Gentiles initially separated from Christ, not included with Israel, foreigners to God, and without hope?

-Because it was God's plan to first save Israel, and then, to use Israel to save all people.

3. Because Israel refused to go to the Gentiles and teach them, what did God do?

-God chose Paul, a Jew, and gave Paul and others the work of going to the Gentiles to teach them.

4. How were the Gentiles far away from God?

-They thought only about themselves, and did not think about God.

-They thought that they could live their lives without God.

5. How can Jews and Gentiles and all Christians be one when they are so different?

-God and Paul teach of a spiritual unity, and not a physical unity.

6. What was God teaching Peter and us all with the vision of a blanket coming down from heaven?

-That in Christ, although we are all physically different,

we are one spiritually.

7. Is God's new temple made of physical stones?

-No. They are spiritual stones.

8. Who are these spiritual stones in the new temple which God is building?

-All who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

9. Who is the chief cornerstone in God's new temple?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

10. Why is Jesus called the chief cornerstone?

-The chief cornerstone was the most important stone in the entire building.

11. When do people become a part of the new temple of God?

-When we are born again through the power of the Holy Spirit.

12. Is God's new temple now complete?

-No.

-Every day, more people are hearing and believing the Word of God and being added to the Lord's temple.

13. Will God's new temple ever be completed?

-Yes. It will be completed one day, and then the Lord Jesus will return and take us all to be with Him in heaven.

-In the first three chapters of Ephesians, we learned what

Christ has already done for us.

-In the last three chapters of Ephesians, we will learn what our response should be.

-We must allow Christ to help us to live according to what He has already done for us.

-We must allow Christ to complete Himself in us.

-We must allow Christ to perfect Himself in us.

-How could we summarize the life of a Christian?

-Simply allowing Christ to finish His work in our lives.

Let's read Ephesians 4:1

1-As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

-Where was Paul when he wrote this letter to the Ephesians?

-He was a prisoner in Rome.

-Did Paul say that he was a prisoner of the Romans?

-No.

-Of whom did Paul say he was a prisoner?

-A prisoner for the Lord.

-What did Paul mean when he said that he was a prisoner for the Lord?

-Paul meant that no matter what people did to him, He was completely led by God Himself.

-Because of all that Christ has done for us, God and Paul urge us to live lives worthy of the calling we have received.

-Here is an illustration:

-One day, you are walking in the forest, and hear a strange noise.

-You find a thin, naked, dirty child lying on the ground.

-The child has been eating roots and living like an animal.

-Because you do not know if the child has a mother or father, you take him to your house.

-You wash the child with soap and water, put new clothes on him, and give him good food to eat.

-Because of your love, you adopt the child as your own, sharing equally what your other children have.

-But when you wake up the next morning, the child has left.

-You find him once again in the forest, naked, dirty, and searching for food.

-You take the child once more back to your house, and this is what you say to the child:

-“I pulled you out of the dirt.”

-“I washed you with soap and water, put new clothes on you, and gave you good food to eat.”

-“I have adopted you as my child, and have given you an equal share with my other children.”

-“Please do not go back to the forest and live like an animal.”

-This story shows what God has done for us.

-When God found us, we were living in the dirt of sin, death, and Satan.

-But God pulled us out of the dirt, and brought us to His house to be a part of His family.

-God gave us a new heart, clothed us with His new clothes of righteousness, and gave us good spiritual food for our souls.

-Even more, God has given us an equal share of eternity and blessing with His Son, the Lord Jesus.

-This is why God and Paul urge us to never go back to living the way we used to live before He saved us.

-As Christians, our calling is the highest calling because

it is from God Himself.

-Therefore, our response to God should be the highest response, that is, totally abandoning ourselves to God.

Let's read Ephesians 4:2-3

2-Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

3-Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

-How does God want Christians to live?

-He wants us to live in unity of the Holy Spirit.

-What does it mean that we should "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace?"

-We should not cause problems that would divide the family of God.

-Is it nice when your children fight with one another?

-No.

-A family that fights with one another is not a happy family.

-How shall Christians live so that there will be unity of the Holy Spirit?

-We should be humble, gentle, patient, and loving.

-What does it mean to be humble?

-It means that we do not think that we are better than other people.

-Sinful man rejects humility and exalts pride.

-God rejects pride and exalts humility.

-Pride is competing with God.

-Humility is submitting to God.

-The root of all sin is pride.

-The root of all good is humility.

-The first sin of Lucifer was pride.

-The first sin of Adam and Eve was pride.

-Pride is our biggest enemy because it exalts the flesh and not God.

-What did pride do to Lucifer?

-It turned him into Satan and evil.

-What does pride do to people?

-It wants to hurt us and kill us.

-Humility is not the way of the flesh, but it is God's way.

-John the Baptist said that he was not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals (John 1:27).

-Peter told Christ, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful

man!” (Luke 5:8).

-Paul humbled himself before God, saying he was the worst of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).

-What is the greatest example of humility?

-The Lord Jesus on the cross.

-Jesus, being God, humbled Himself, entered the flesh, and allowed those whom He had created to crucify Him.

-The degree to which we humble ourselves is the same degree that God will bless us and use us.

-As Jesus Himself said, “For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” (Luke 18:14).

-Being humble gives birth to being gentle.

-What does it mean to be gentle?

-It means that we are humble enough to submit to God knowing that God is in complete control.

-The Bible says that Moses was the most humble and gentle man on earth (Numbers 12:3).

-Even though Moses was gentle, he confronted Satan and Pharaoh in the power of God.

-When Jesus was arrested, He could have called

thousands of angels, yet He was gentle and allowed the people to take Him and crucify Him.

-If we are gentle, then we are finished with ourselves, and we are only with God.

-Being gentle gives birth to being patient.

-What does it mean to be patient?

-It means that we wait on God to work out our lives in His time, and not in our time.

-God promised Abraham a son, yet Abraham had to be patient for some twenty-five years before God gave him a son.

-God promised Noah that He would send rain on the earth, and that Noah was to build an ark, yet Noah had to be patient for at least seventy-five years before God sent the rains.

-God's time and people's time are different.

-People's time is not perfect, but God's time is perfect.

-While people are not born patient, if we wait on God, it will be the right time for us.

-Being patient gives birth to loving others.

-The love of the world takes and does not give.

-The love of God gives and does not take.

-Physical love takes and does not give.

-Spiritual love gives and does not take.

-Being humble, gentle, patient, and loving gives birth to unity.

-This is not a physical unity, as a physical unity is impossible.

-This is a spiritual unity which has already been given by God the Holy Spirit.

-How should Christians live so that there will be unity of the Holy Spirit?

-We should be humble, gentle, patient, and loving.

-Is it easy to be humble, gentle, patient, and loving when others hurt us?

-No.

-Can we be humble, gentle, patient, and loving on our own?

-No.

-How can we be humble, gentle, patient, and loving when others hurt us?

-Call on God the Holy Spirit to respond through us.

-The degree to which we call on God the Holy Spirit will be the same degree to which He responds.

Let's read Ephesians 4:4-6

4-There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;

5-One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

6-One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

-Just as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one, God wants all of His children to be one.

-God wants all of His children to be one with Him and one with one another.

-Even though Christ has made all Christians one with God, we do not fully understand nor live according to this truth.

-Even though Christ has made all Christians one with all other Christians, we do not fully understand nor live according to this truth.

-Just as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are united, Christians should also be united with God and with one another.

-There is only one body which is the Church.

-In God's eyes, is there any separation among Christians?

-No.

-In God's eyes, there is no separation of denomination nor of skin color nor of tribe or country you are from.

-There is only one Holy Spirit who has already united all Christians together.

-There is one only hope to which all Christians have been called.

-What is our one greatest hope?

-That one day we will be with our God face to face, and be completely without sin.

-There is only one Lord who is the Jesus Christ who has died for us that we might have eternal life.

-There is only one faith which comes only from the truths of the Bible.

-There is only one baptism which is our testimony to the world that Christ has saved us from sin and death and Satan.

-There is only one God and Father who has given us eternity with Him.

-He is the best Father we could ever want.

Let's read Ephesians 4:7

7-But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

-True Christianity is not what we should do for God.

-What is true Christianity?

-Understanding what God has already done for us.

-To all Christians, God has given us the gift of grace.

-Additionally, God has given us the gift of faith which is exactly according to the measure of the gift of grace.

-Each gift of grace has an accompanying gift of faith which God has uniquely designed in each one of our lives.

-For each gift of grace which God gives us, we have a matching measure of faith which are in harmony with one another.

-Here is an illustration:

-When a woman makes pancakes or ugali, the measure of water must match the measure of flour.

-Here is another illustration:

-Our left leg cannot work properly without our right leg, and our left arm cannot work properly without our right arm.

-Just as God has designed our left leg and arm to work properly with our right leg and arm, so God has given us the gift of faith which is designed to work properly with the gift of grace.

-The gifts of grace and faith are identical or exact twins, walking together down the road of life.

-Since both the gift of grace and the gift of faith are from God, what should be our conclusion?

-That our gifts are not to be sought, for it is God who decides the measure of gifts He wants to give us.

-That our gifts are not to be neglected, for God has given them to us in order to make us to become the people that God wants us to be.

-That our gifts are not to be exalted above other gifts, for just as all Christians are different, all gifts are different.

Let's read Ephesians 4:11

11-So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,

-The two major passages regarding our spiritual gifts are in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12.

-The two minor passages regarding our spiritual gifts are here in Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4.

-In Ephesians 4:11, we read that Christ **gave** the gifts to His people.

-This teaches us that Christ alone decides to whom to give His gifts.

-Apostles and prophets were the foundations of the early Church.

-We learned this in Ephesians 2:20 which says that the Church is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”

-They were given the work of laying the foundation of the Church, teaching and writing the Word of God given by God Himself, and testifying through signs and wonders that their teaching was the Word of God.

-Another gift is to those who are evangelists.

-An evangelist is one who teaches the Word of God to those who have never heard, but also teaches other Christians to evangelize.

-The remaining gift is to those who are pastors and teachers.

-The New Testament written in the Greek language teaches us that this is one gift, that is, that a pastor is a teacher and a teacher is a pastor.

-A pastor or a teacher is also a shepherd who cares for and teaches the people.

-In 1 Peter, we have an example of a pastor or teacher who is a shepherd for the people:

Let's read 1 Peter 5:2-3

2-Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

3-not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

-A pastor or a teacher also acts as an elder or overseer of the church.

-They were also called elders or overseers because they guided the work of the church.

-Wherever people believed, God the Holy Spirit through Paul chose men to be pastors and teachers or elders of that church.

-What is the main work of the elders of the church?

-To teach and equip all Christians in the church.

Let's read Ephesians 4:12-13

12-to equip his people for works of service, so

that the body of Christ may be built up

13-until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

-To equip means to make complete.

-God wants all of His people to become complete.

-While we will be perfect in heaven, God wants us to start now here on earth to become complete.

-God always wants the best for us.

-The problem, however, is us.

-We must work together with God and allow Him to begin to make us complete and perfect here on earth.

-Here is an illustration:

-When you eat a full meal, your body feels complete.

-Just as our body feels complete after a full meal, our souls also want to be complete in Christ.

-For our souls to be complete, we must allow God and the Word of God to equip us to become full in Christ.

Let's read Ephesians 4:14

14-Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by

every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

-What are God and Paul saying about Christians who listen to the false teachings of Satan's servants?

-They are like being in a boat on a lake during a storm without a sail or a paddle.

-If we do not allow God and the Word of God to equip us to become complete in Christ, we will remain as children.

-We will be tossed and blown by the winds of false teachers who twist the Word of God.

-How is this an illustration of Christians who do not read and study the Word of God?

-They do not know what to believe.

-They do not know who to believe.

-They believe one false teaching, and then, reject that teaching and believe another false teaching.

Let's read Ephesians 4:15

15-Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

-What is God's goal for all of His children?

-God wants us to know Him intimately, and to allow Him to be Lord of our lives.

-What will be the result of knowing the Lord Jesus intimately and allowing Him to be Lord of our lives?

-He will control every part of our lives, and we will share His truths with others through our words and deeds.

-As Paul said in Philippians 1:21, “For to me, to live in Christ.”

-And as Paul said in Galatians 2:20, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”

Let’s read Ephesians 4:16

16-From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

-How do our bodies remind us of Christ and His Body, the Church?

-As the members of our bodies are joined to form one body and the body is joined to the head, so we all have been joined to one another and to Christ, our Head.

-As the parts of our bodies depend on each other, so we all depend on the Lord Jesus and one another.

-As our bodies can only function well if every member

does its part, so every member of Christ's Body must do its part so the Church can function well.

-As the Head, it is Christ who provides the life and power to the Body of Christ.

-The life and power of Christ flows into the lives and hearts of His Body, that is, each and every Christian.

-The degree to which each Christian remains close to Christ and to one another is the same degree to which the Body of Christ will function.

-Everyone is important in the Body of Christ.

-There is no one in the Body of Christ who is not important.