

EPHESIANS 6

1. How could we summarize the life of a Christian?

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

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

-He was a prisoner in Rome.

3. 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.

4. 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.

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

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

6. What does it mean to be humble?

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

7. What is the greatest example of humility?

-The Lord Jesus on the cross.

8. 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.

9. 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.

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

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

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

-No.

12. What is our one greatest hope?

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

13. What is true Christianity?

-Understanding what God has already done for us.

14. What is the main work of the elders of the church?

-To teach and equip all Christians in the church.

15. 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.

Let's read Ephesians 4:17

17-So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the

futility of their thinking.

-Who are the Gentiles that God and Paul are talking about here?

-These are Gentiles who do not believe in God or pagans or non-believers.

-How do non-believers live?

-In the uselessness of their thinking.

-Is the mind of a non-believer on God and eternity?

-No.

-Where is the mind of a non-believer?

-On this world and that which will disappear and die.

-In this world, King Solomon had the greatest mind, for God gave him much wisdom.

-Yet, at the end of his life, Solomon said that everything in the world was meaningless.

-A mind without God is a mind that is never satisfied.

-As we learned last lesson, God wants us to live a life worthy of our calling, and not live as those who do not believe in Christ.

Let's read Ephesians 4:18

18-They are darkened in their understanding, and

separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

-Why are non-believers not able to understand the truths of God?

-Because of their hard hearts.

-How did the hearts of the non-believers become hard?

-By continuing to refuse to listen to God's Words.

-It is the evil of people that pushes away the truths of God.

-It is because non-believers have pushed away the truths of God that their understanding is dark, and their hearts are hard.

-Therefore, they are separated from the life of God and eternal life which only God can give.

-When the thinking of non-believers becomes useless, and their hearts become hard, what happens next?

Let's read Ephesians 4:19

19-Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

-With useless thinking and hard hearts, non-believers lose their sense of right and wrong, and they do whatever their evil hearts desire.

-Here is an illustration:

-When babies are born, what are the bottom of their feet like?

-They are soft and tender.

-When babies first begin to walk, they feel everything that they step on.

-But when babies grow up and continue to walk, they no longer feel everything that they step on.

-This is because their feet become hard and can no longer feel all that they step on.

-Although we have already studied this in Romans, let us read one more time what God says about non-believers:

Let's read Romans 1:28-32

28-Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

29-They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips,

30-slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

31-they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

32-Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things, but also approve of those who practice them.

-This is how the children of Satan live, but what about the children of God?

-Should we live the same way?

-No.

-Before we believed in Christ, our thoughts were useless, our hearts were hard, and we had little sense of right and wrong.

-When we believe in God, what does God give to us?

-God gives us a new mind, the mind of Christ, so that we can know and understand the truths of God.

-1 Corinthians 2:16 says this: "We have the mind of Christ."

-We can know and understand the truths of God because God has given us a new mind, the mind of Christ.

-Our thoughts are no longer useless.

-Our hearts are no longer darkened.

-We have a strong sense to know what is right and what is wrong.

-This is why God and Paul are urging us not to live like non-believers who are blind to God's truths.

-This is why God and Paul are urging us to not follow the ways of non-believers and the ways of the world.

-Here is an illustration:

-If someone could see well, yet closes his eyes and follows a blind man to guide him, what would he be?
-Foolish.

-What would you call Christians if we followed the ideas of the people of this world who are blind to the truth?
-Very foolish.

-Now that God has given us the mind of Christ, how should we live?

-We should live according to the new mind of Christ which God has given us.

Let's read Ephesians 4:20-24

20-That, however, is not the way of life you learned

21-when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

22-You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

23-to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

24-and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

-Can the ways of God and the ways of the world walk together?

-No.

-To hold on to the ways of the world is to reject God.

-When we become Christians, one of the first truths to learn is that we should not trust our own thinking, nor depend on our own ways.

-As Christians, why should we not trust our own thinking, nor depend on our ways?

-Because our own thinking and our own ways are not from God, and will only cause many problems.

-As Christians, because we have the mind of Christ, we should no longer live for ourselves, but live for Christ.

-The problem is that our own thinking and own ways try to persuade us to follow the ways of the world.

-Are the ways of the world better than the ways of God?

-No.

-Then, why do Christians follow the ways of the world from time to time?

-Because our flesh tells us that we will lose something if

we do not follow the ways of the world.

-This is why we must continue to ask our God to increase our faith, for our life is determined by our faith in God.

-In the verses above, you may think that God and Paul are asking us to put off the old self, be made new, and to put on the new self.

-Yet, if you are a Christian, God has already done this for you when you believed in Christ.

-When we believe in Christ, God Himself puts off our old self, makes us new, and puts on our new self.

-In the verses above, God and Paul are describing what has already happened to us Christians.

-Here's an illustration:

-A rich man took a beggar with old, ripped clothes into his home and gave him a new set of clothes.

-The rich man took off the old, ripped clothes of the beggar, and put the new clothes on him.

-After the beggar had on new clothes, would he come back to wear his old, ripped clothes again?

-No.

-If he is wise, he will keep on the new clothes, and never wear the old, ripped clothes again.

-If you believe in Christ, He has already taken off the old clothes, given us a new heart, and put beautiful new clothes on us.

-Therefore, we should live completely differently than we used to live.

Let's read Ephesians 4:25

25-Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

-Who is the father of lies?

-Satan.

-Who is the truth?

-God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

-Who are our neighbors?

-Our brothers and sisters in Christ.

-What happens when Christians lie?

-We hurt others, we hurt ourselves, and we hurt God.

-Some people say that they tell half-truths.

-Before God, there is no such thing as a half-truth.

-If it is not completely true, then it is a lie.

-God tells us in Revelation 21:8 that all liars will go to

the Lake of Eternal Fire.

-We must never lie, but always tell the truth.

Let's read Ephesians 4:26-27

26-"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

27-And do not give the devil a foothold.

-Is it possible to be angry, yet not sin?

-Yes.

-Jesus was angry, but did not sin.

-When Jesus healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath, He was angry with the Pharisees because of their hard hearts. (Mk 3:5).

-Jesus was angry with the people who had turned God's temple into a market by selling animals and changing money (Jn 2:15).

-The anger of Jesus was a perfect, righteous anger, but the anger of people is not always perfect.

-What is the difference between anger that is sin and anger that is perfect or righteous?

-Anger that is sin is selfish and wants revenge.

-When we are angry because God or others are

mistreated, this is a righteous, perfect anger.

-Yet we must be careful because righteous anger can turn into sinful anger.

-How do we give the devil a foothold?

-When we have sinful anger, and do not ask God to forgive us and take away our anger.

-When sinful anger comes, we should ask our God to immediately take it away, as it can lead to even more sin.

Let's read Ephesians 4:28

28-Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

-Not to steal is the eighth commandment which God gave to Moses and the Israelites.

-To steal is to take away that which God has given to someone else.

-God encourages us to work for that which we have, as this work honors God.

-In addition, we can work to share with those in need, as this work also honors God.

Let's read Ephesians 4:29-30

29-Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

30-And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

-From where is the bad talk that comes out of our mouths?

-Bad talk that comes out of our mouths is not from God, but rather, from our flesh.

-Bad talk is the sign that our flesh is talking, and not God the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

-Jesus said that "the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" (Mt 12:34).

-The talk of a Christian should always be to build up other people, and not to tear them down.

-Even if we are correcting other people, our talk should be to build them up.

-When someone talks badly to us, how do we feel?

-It makes us want to do the same thing.

-It makes us want to talk badly to the other person.

-How do we stop talking badly to others when they talk badly to us?

-By asking God to respond for us.

-When we ask God to respond instead of our flesh, God will do it.

-It will also help us not to talk badly to others when we remember that our talking bad hurts God.

-Ephesians 4:30 says that we grieve God when we talk badly to other people.

-Do we want to hurt God?

-No.

-If we love God, then we will not want to hurt Him.

-It will also help us not to talk badly to others when we remember all that God has done for us.

-If we remember all that God has done for us, our hearts will be full of gratitude, and there will be no room in our hearts for bad talk.

-It will also help us not to talk badly to others when we remember that it is not our job to correct people if they do not want to be corrected.

-Only God can correct people who do not want to be corrected.

Let's read Ephesians 4:31-32

31-Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

32-Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

-As children of Adam and Eve, sin is a strong part of our lives.

-A few sins produce more sins which produce a lot of sin.

-As children of God, we now have a new heart from Christ, yet we still have old habits.

-Bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, and all forms of evil may still be part of our old habits.

-Even though we are Christians, evil and sin continue to be stronger than we are.

-Because our God alone is stronger than evil and sin, only God can take them away.

-This is why we must ask our God to take all of these evils away from us.

-If we ask God to take away these old, evil habits, will He do so?

-Yes.

-If we can remember all that God has done for us, our hearts will be full of gratitude, and there will be no room in our hearts for these evil, old habits.

-The same is true when we find it difficult to forgive someone who has hurt us.

-If we remember that Christ has forgiven us from all of our sin, then it will be easier for us to forgive others.

-We think that people who have hurt us do not deserve to be forgiven.

-But do we deserve to be forgiven by God?

-No.

-What do we deserve?

-Eternal punishment.

-But what did God do for us?

-He sent Jesus to die for us and to pay for all of our sins.