

Ephesians 4

Going Vertical

1-3 What God did for us...

- **Ch. 1** Spiritual Blessing **In Christ**: Chosen, Adopted, Redeemed, Forgiven, Predestined, Sealed
- **Ch. 2** Result of Blessings In Christ: **Made alive**, Saved by Grace, Made One family. Christ in us
- **Ch. 3** Unsearchable Riches **In Christ**. Power of His grace in Salvation/Ministry displayed for His Glory

4-6 Living our lives in response to His Grace

I. Unity through Humility

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech [exhort/encourage] you to **walk worthy of the calling** with which you were called, 2 with all **lowliness** and **gentleness**, with **longsuffering, bearing with one another in love**, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

If we are saved we are called...

If we are called we are commanded to walk worthy of that calling

Colossians 1:10 [Know God's will] ...**Walk worthy** of the Lord, fully **pleasing Him**, being **fruitful** in every good work...

Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk in Him...**

1 Thessalonians 2:12 ... **walk worthy** of God who calls you into His own kingdom/glory.

- **Walk**: lit. Regulate one's life. How one conducts themselves. **IOWs v1 we are to...**

Live for God to the same measure as the value of what God has done for us

Revelation 1:5b [Jesus] who loved us and **washed us** from our **sins** in **His own blood**

1 John 4:19 [Response] We love Him **because He first loved us...**

Correct Response to God's Grace/Love is to Walk in Humility v2

- **Lowliness**: Humility/Modesty
- **Gentleness**: Meekness. Strength under control
- **Longsuffering**: Patience. Slow to anger
- **Forbearance**: Hold back/Bear with others quirks...even though we have none of own

These Attributes Sound a Lot Like Jesus

Vv 1-2 A worthy walk begins with humility toward one another

We are called to live lives worthy of our calling as we humbly seek to keep unity found in yielding the members of our individual bodies to the Holy Spirit which in turn unites the members of Christ's Body together in the bond of peace, working harmoniously for the common purpose of glorifying God by responding to/displaying His grace toward us. [NJC]

One Body w/Many Members/United Under One Head/All Working Together
That is the True Church...

4 There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; 5 **one Lord, one faith, one baptism**; 6 **one God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

- One Body

Romans 12:5 ...so we, being many, are **one body in Christ**, and individually members of one another.

- One Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the **body is one** and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by **one Spirit** we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into **one Spirit**.

- One Hope/Lord/Faith/Baptism/One God

The Beauty of Jesus found in the Unity of the Body of Christ as a whole...

II. Strength in Unity

7 But to **each one** [member] of us **grace was given** according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And **gave gifts to men.**" 9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Every individual member is given a ministry to edify the whole...
When Jesus Ascended to the Father He sent back the Gift of His Holy Spirit

Acts 2:33 [Jesus] being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the **promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out** this which you now see and hear.

Holy Spirit distributes gifts to each individual member of Jesus Body

1 Corinthians 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to **each one for the profit of all** ...**11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to **each one individually as He wills.**

Romans 12:4 ...as we have **many members in one body**, but all the members do not have the **same function...**

Administration/Missions/Discernment/Evangelism/Exhortation/Faith/Giving/Healing/Helps Hospitality/Knowledge/Leadership/Mercy/Prophecy/Serving/Tongues/Teaching/Wisdom

- **One or more:** From Jesus to us. Dispersed by His Holy Spirit as He [Spirit] wills

Jesus Gave us Gifts

One or more to each/every member of His Body to minister to one another

Jesus Gave us Equippers

To equip each individual member to use their gift to minister to one another

11 And **He Himself gave some** to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**

- **Jesus Himself** gives the Body 4 classifications of equippers
 1. **Apostles:** Missionaries/Sent out ones. Not Apostles proper as 12
 2. **Prophets:** Speak forth Word consistent w/OT/NT. Not new word as per Heb 12
 3. **Evangelists:** Specifically anointed to preach the Good News
 4. **Pastor/Teachers:** One in original. Shepherd/Teach/Pray

Jesus Equips 4 Offices of Equippers. *In turn...*
These equippers equip every member of His Body

- **Mission:** Equip the Saints for Individual Ministries to edify [build up] the whole
- **Goal of Equippers:** That the Body would move forward toward maturity...
 1. **United in Faith:** Common Faith in Jesus
 2. **United in Knowledge:** Common Doctrine from the Word

Using our gifts to help one another become Perfect/Complete/Mature...
Measure/Stature/Fullness of Christ

The gifted offices and equipped saints bring fellow saints to maturity, according to the measure of Jesus Himself. As years pass by, we should not only grow old in Jesus, but more mature in Him as well, both as individuals and as a corporate body. [Guzik]

It's Time to get Serious about our Calling/Walk/Ministries to one another

Year of Unrelenting Deception: Eyes on the Prize as Satan throws all he's got at us...

Revelation 12:12b ...the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.

- **Mask/Gloves came off/Fuse was lit** Oct 7, 2023 when Satan invaded God's real estate

Romans 13:11 [Know this] ... it is high time to **awake out of sleep**; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 **The night is far spent, the day is at hand.** Therefore let us **cast off** the works of darkness, and let us **put on the armor of light.**

1 Thessalonians 5:5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 ...let us **not sleep**, as others do, but let us **watch and be sober.** [disciplined]

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Antidote to Satan's Deception? Strong Body United under building one another up in Jesus humbly working/bearing with one another

Growing together in the Measure/Stature/Fullness of Christ
Ready and Equipped by those Jesus sent to equip us. **IOWs We have all we need...**

14 ...that we should **no longer be children, tossed** to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting...

- If we slack off/refuse to become equipped, **we will be...**
 1. **Tossed** to and fro doctrinally
 2. **Carried** About away from the truth
 3. **Deceived** Led away from truth/stability
 4. **Picked off** by Satan's Amalekites...

Deuteronomy 25:17 Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, 18 how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the **stragglers at your rear**, when you were tired and weary; and he [enemy] did not fear God.

Proverbs 19:24 [Spiritual Laziness is dangerous] A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

If you are not in using your ministry to build up the body...If you are not being built up
Time to Get up/Grow Up: Eyes off TV/Butt off the couch/Begin serving others w/your gift

- Not Wishy washy/to/fro/tossed around...Walking unworthy of our calling...

15 **...but**, [instead] **speaking the truth in love, may grow up** in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, **joined and knit** together by what every joint supplies, according to the **effective working** by which every part does its share, causes **growth of the body** for the **edifying of itself in love.**

- **Speak the Truth in Love:** Context? To each other

Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy. [Wiersbe]

John 1:14 [Jesus was the perfect balance of Truth and Love] ...the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of **grace and truth...**17 For the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ.

We Perpetuate Spiritual Growth as we Speak/Act in Truth in Love to One Another
Don't Lie...Be Real... Be who Ch.'s 1-3 say we are [c.f. v25]

- **Grow up in all things** I.e....

...Jesus the Head of His body who keeps us from deception/causes us to grow
Newsflash: A body unattached to the head stops growing

Colossians 2:18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and **not holding fast to the Head**, from whom **all the body, nourished and knit together** by joints and ligaments, **grows with the increase that is from God.**

- **We are joined the Christ** our Head as we abide in His love [John 15]
- **We are joined** together as we use our individual gifts to build up one another
- **Our gifts** effectively work together [*en-erg'-i-ah*] **as we each do our part**

When we each do our part the entire body is powerfully built up in love
Going rogue is not an option...We are to build up one another...

Jesus Christ sent apostles and teachers for this purpose— that the corporate Person of Christ and His church, made up of many members, might be brought into being and made known. **We are not here to develop a spiritual life of our own**, or to enjoy a quiet spiritual retreat. We are here to have the full realization of Jesus Christ, for the purpose of **building His body**. Am I building up the body of Christ, or am I only concerned about my own personal development? [Chambers]

Each individual member doing their share to edify the body as a whole
Leaving Selfishness and Self-awareness behind...

III. Walking as a New Man

- The Church is not a **dead organization** but a **Living Organism**
- A **Living Organism** is better than a **dead organization**

We Serve a Living God

We were Dead...But God the Living God made us Alive. **Let's Look Alive!**

17 This I say, **therefore**, and testify in the Lord, that you should **no longer walk** as the rest of the Gentiles walk, **in the futility of their mind**, 18 having their **understanding darkened**, being **alienated from the life of God**, because of the **ignorance** that is **in them**, because of the **blindness** of their **heart**; 19 who, being **past feeling**, have **given themselves over** to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

- We are a New Creation: Look Alive

Ephesians 2:2 ... you **once walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience...**4 BUT GOD**

1 Peter 4:3 [Haven't] **we have spent enough of our past** lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries [?].

Titus 3:3 For **we ourselves were also once foolish**, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

Things we once never gave a thought doing about were actually acts of godless rebellion...

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, **the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and **be renewed** in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you **put on the new man** which was **created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness.

- **Put off** by the power of the Spirit of God
 1. **Former Conduct**
 2. **Old man** growing more corrupt

Colossians 3:8 ... **put off** all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Romans 12:2 ...**do not be conformed** to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- **Put on** by power of the Spirit of God
 1. **Be renewed** in the spirit [life] of your mind
 2. **New man** created according to God; i.e. Righteousness Christ to Holiness

Colossians 3:10 ...put on the **new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Romans 6:4 ...**we were buried with Him** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**.

Romans 7:6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the **newness of the Spirit** and not in the oldness of the letter.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**.

Good news: You now have the power of God's Holy Spirit. **Bad news:** No excuse. **Put off the old man Adam** and **put on the New Man Jesus**

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "**Be angry**, and **do not sin**": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 **nor give place** [an opportunity] **to the devil**.

Because you desire to walk as the New Man you are **In Christ...**

- **Put away lying:** Be real. We belong to one another. We need one another
- **Be angry if appropriate** but don't sin

Psalm 4:4 [David] Be angry, and **do not sin**. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah

Psalm 37:8 [David] **Cease from anger/forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm.**

Romans 12:19 Beloved, **do not avenge yourselves**, but rather **give place** to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Deal with unrighteousness anger immediately
Before it morphs into Demonic Bitterness v27

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; **lest any root of bitterness** springing up cause trouble, and by this **many become defiled...**

There is no such thing as righteous bitterness. Period.
The devil has you...Humble yourself

James 4:7 ... submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but **rather** let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

- **Turn your sin on its head:** Stole? Give. Selfish? Sacrifice. Perverse? Holy. Gossip? Speak well

29 Let **no corrupt word** proceed out of your mouth, **but what is good** for necessary edification [building up], that it may **impart grace** to the hearers.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 ...comfort each other and **edify one another**, just as you also are doing.

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

30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were **sealed for the day of redemption**. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking **be put away** from you, with all **malice**. 32 And **be kind** to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

- Directed to believers for believers

The Holy Spirit is a Person...A Person Who Can be Grieved
Not a force/Bible trained conscience but the 3rd Person of the Holy Trinity

Sealed by the Holy Spirit for the Day of Redemption of our Bodies

No longer angry but grieved at our sin

- Things that grieve God the Spirit are not a mystery [6 biggies]
 1. **Bitterness:** Acid. Caustic capable of destroying or eating away
 2. **Wrath:** Passion, Angry, Boiling over
 3. **Anger:** Natural [Adamic] disposition, temper, character
 4. **Clamor:** Loud Quarrelling. Loud.
 5. **Evil Speaking:** Blaspheme. Seeking to injure with words
 6. **Malice:** General desire to hurt
- Things that grieve God [6 biggies]
- Things that bless God the Spirit are not a mystery [3 biggies]
 1. **Kindness:** Fit for use. Virtuous. Mild. Pleasant. Opp. Of harsh, sharp, bitter
 2. **Tender Hearted:** Strong feeling in bowels. Compassionate/sympathetic
 3. **Forgiving one another....**Freely/Graciously/ rt. Bring joy to underserved

Forgive one another **even as** God in Christ forgave you

How did God in Christ forgive you? Sacrificially 100% Forgiven AND Forgotten

What the correct response to the **In Christ** life of Ch.'s 1-3 looks like on ground
Using our Gifts to Build one another up to the Measure/Stature/Fullness of Christ

Putting off the Old Version of us/Putting on the New Version

Kind/Tenderhearted/Forgiving: Sounds a lot like Jesus