

Intro

- The book of Ephesians, as most agree is concerning the Body of Christ; the church
- However, there seems to be an underlying theme that highlights harmony or unity

Eph. 4:1-3 “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**, showing **tolerance** for one another in love, being diligent to **preserve the unity** of the Spirit in the **bond of peace.**”

- This is sort of the slant I have been using in my class as we move through the book
- As we come to chapter 5, Paul gives us 3 lessons we can learn concerning our spiritual walk

I. The pattern for our walk Vs. 1-2

Eph. 5:1-2 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”

- a. Being imitators of God
- b. Some attributes cannot be communicated
 - Eternality, self-sufficiency, the 3 omni’s: omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscience
 - But some can be; we can show mercy, we can show grace and we can live in truth
- c. It is obvious Paul is referring to love

John 13:34, 35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

What’s new about this commandment?

- The OT command is, “You shall love your neighbor as you love **yourself**” Lev. 19:18
 - Now we are to love sacrificially to the point of death.
- d. The implication is, “When we walk in love it is a fragrant aroma to God”

II. The practice of our walk Vs. 3-8

Eph. 5:3-8 “But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not filling, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

a. Separate

i. Because certain lifestyles are not becoming to the redeemed

ii. Because God is going to judge the un-redeemed on these deeds

- God hates sin

b. Evaluate

Eph. 5:7-8 “Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light”

i. I was transformed

Col. 1:13-14 “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

ii. Who we are! We are light

iii. We are not just instruments of light; which we are.

iv. We are not just reflectors of the light; which we are to do.

v.

III. The purpose in our walk Vs. 9-17

Eph. 5:9-13 “(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.”

a. To be fruitful and wise

b. Light produces fruit

- Goodness carries the idea of charity or benevolence

- Righteousness of doing what is right; civil, legal and moral law

- Truth is obvious; speaking and living what is true

c. Understanding produces wisdom

Eph. 5:14-17 “For this reason it says, ‘Awake sleeper, and arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you’”. Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise

men but wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

- No one knows where the quote originated
- The word, “time” is chronos which means season.
- The believer has 2 seasons; a season of darkness and a season of light
 - #1 For the glory of God. Luther said, “Nothing else matters but the glory of God
 - #2 We will stand before the One that died for us and give and account

2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for the deeds in the body, to what he has done, whether good or bad”

Application:

- All of us need to ask ourselves, “Where am I in my spiritual walk?”
- Dr. Sweetings quote, “Failure in the Christian life is usually a slow leak rather than a blow out.”

