

Prison Mission Association



EPHESIANS LESSON TWO

Answer Key

CHAPTER FOUR

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” [Eph. 4:3 (KJV)].

In the first three chapters of this letter, God has given us through Paul some of the most important doctrinal teachings for the church of this age; in the last three chapters the emphasis changes to the practical life and walk of the believer. Here in chapter four especially, Paul’s stress is on the unity we share as believers in the Spirit of God and how that unity should affect our behavior and attitude.

Please take time to read through this chapter before answering the questions.

- In verse 1 Paul encourages us to walk (live our lives) in a manner worthy of God’s calling, which each of us believers received in Christ. According to verse 2 this walk includes four things. What are they?
 - Being humble / Lowliness
 - Gentle
 - Patient
 - Putting up with / bearing with one another
- (v. 3) What are we trying to keep or preserve? The unity of the Spirit
- Just as the Father and the Son are one (John 10:30), we are one in Christian unity. There are seven important truths that unify believers today. What are they? (vv. 4-6)
 - One body
 - One Spirit
 - One hope of our calling
 - One Lord
 - One Faith
 - One baptism
 - One God and Father of us all

Note: The one baptism is not water baptism. It is the Holy Spirit’s baptism placing us into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

Verses 7-11 refer to the gifts that Christ has given each of us to help others grow in their spiritual lives. Each of us is an important member of Christ’s body, with at least one spiritual gift. Part of maturing spiritually as a believer is to discover which gifts God has given you and then learning to exercise them for the benefit of the whole body.

4. (v. 8) What did Christ do when he ascended on high? He led captivity captive / captives in his train
and Gave gifts to men

Note: We were once captives of sin, death and Satan, but Jesus delivered us from this bondage and captured us for himself. His descent to the lower parts of the earth refers to his birth, and his ascent on high refers to his return to heaven.

5. What five gifts were given to the church? (v. 11)

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers

Note: The word *apostle* means *one sent forth*. Here in this context it does not refer to the unique ministry of the Twelve Apostles, or even to Paul specifically. Rather, it is used in a general sense to include all who are sent out to proclaim God's Word and establish churches. Apostles were leaders with special authority in the church, the gift was foundational and is no longer among those that God gives to the Church. *Prophets* is also used in the general sense, referring to those who boldly proclaim God's truth and warn people of the consequences of ignoring it. While this ministry once included the function of revealing new truth from God, with the completion of scripture this function (foretelling) of the gift was no longer needed. Rather than looking for new truth from God, we should try to master the truth He has already revealed to us in His written Word.

6. Based on verse 12, write in your own words why Christ gave these gifts to his church. _____

To develop workers to build up the Body of Christ

7. (v. 13) These gifts are to help each member of the Body of Christ reach four goals. What are the goals?

1. The unity of the faith
2. Knowledge of God's Son
3. Maturity / perfect man
4. The fullness of Christ / Christ likeness

8. (v. 14) How might immature believers be tossed about? They might accept unsound doctrine

What step might you take to avoid being tossed about? Study God's Word diligently

(If you are not sure, read 2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:16.)

9. (v. 15) How should you speak the truth? In love Who is the head? Christ

A normal body is coordinated and will work in harmony, every part in unity with every other part. The hands work in harmony with the eyes, and with the arms, etc. There is no conflict. What a beautiful picture of how the body of Christ should be. We are to be in unity with one another; and in our unity, we will glorify God and magnify Christ.

10. (v. 16) If we are unified, what will happen to the church/body? It will grow and edify itself

11. (vv. 18-19) We are not to walk as unbelieving Gentiles do. List four things that describe their condition.

1. Darkened in their understanding
2. Excluded from the life of God

3. **Hardened in their hearts / callous**
4. **Given themselves over to sensuality**
12. (v. 21) In this world, where people have trouble discerning between right and wrong, where can truth be found? **in Jesus** (Read John 14:6)
13. (v. 22) We are to put off the old man/self (our sinful nature). How is this old nature described?
Corrupted with the lusts of deceit
14. (v. 24) What should the believer put on? **The new self**
How is it created? **In Righteousness** and **In Holiness**
15. (v. 25) Instead of lying, what should you do? **Speak truth with your neighbor**
16. In your own words explain verse 27. **Stay out of temptation's way, give no opportunity for the devil to have control or influence by being disobedient to the Holy Spirit's leading.**
(answers may vary)
17. (v. 28) Instead of stealing, what should you do? **labor / work**
Why? **To have something to share with others in need**
18. (v. 29) Why is it important that only good words come out of your mouth? _____
To edify and give grace to those who hear you
19. How do you think you might grieve the Holy Spirit who lives in you? (v. 30) **(answers may vary)**

What has the Holy Spirit done for you? **Sealed me for the day of redemption**
20. (v. 31) What are you to get rid of? **Bitterness, anger, clamor, slander, malice (NASB)**
21. How are you to treat other members of the body? (v. 32) **With tender-hearted kindness and forgiveness**
How are you to forgive them? **As God for Christ's sake has forgiven me**

CHAPTER FIVE

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil” [Eph. 5:15-16 (NASB)].

In this chapter of our study we learn more about how to live the Christian life. The verses exhort us to separate ourselves from immoral and sinful behavior and to walk in the will of God. When we allow God to enter into our minds through His written Word, we are permitting a powerful force to come in. If we refuse His Word, however, we are giving invitation to another powerful force, an ungodly force, to influence our minds and our

bodies. This force is described as “the god of this world.” 2 Cor. 4:3-4 states, “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.”

Satan is seeking to conquer the world. His battlefield is the minds and hearts of men. When he has a foothold he spreads disunity and conflict. Behind the great movements which are today threatening the peace and freedom of mankind, Satan operates, moving as the Great Deceiver and Devouring Lion. Studying the Bible helps prepare us to resist Satan’s attacks and his influence in the world, in our churches, and in our lives.

1. (v. 1) What are you told to be? **Imitators / followers of God**
 2. (v. 2) How are you to walk? **In love**
What did Christ do for you? **He gave himself for me**
 3. (vv. 3-4) List six things that you should avoid.
 1. **Immorality**
 2. **Impurity**
 3. **Greed**
 4. **Filthiness / obscenity**
 5. **Silly talk / foolish talk**
 6. **Coarse jesting**
 4. Verse 5 describes unbelievers. What will they be denied? **An inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God**
 5. (v. 6) What is going to come upon these sinners? **The wrath of God**
 6. (vv. 7-8) Why should you no longer join in the behavior of these unbelievers? **Because you are no longer part of the kingdom of darkness but are now part of the kingdom of light**
How should you walk? **As children of light**
 7. (v. 9) Name three things the light (Spirit) produces in believers?
 1. **Goodness**
 2. **Righteousness**
 3. **Truth**
 8. (v. 11) Instead of participating in the works of darkness, or even just observing them, what should you do? **Expose them for what they are**
 9. What does verse 12 say about sins done in secret? **It is disgraceful to even speak of them**
 10. Read verse 13 and compare it with John 3:19-20. The main idea is that light exposes, or reproves, sin. In John 3:20, why doesn’t an evil person come to the light? **Because everyone who does evil hates the light and does not want to be exposed**
- Just as the light exposes what is hidden in the darkness, so the light of God will expose sin which people try to keep secretly hidden. Take time now to pray. Ask God to reveal sin in your life that you would not want others to see. Confess your sin to Him and accept the forgiveness we have for our sins through the death of Jesus Christ our Lord.
11. (v. 14) What will happen to the person who wakes up from spiritual sleep or arises from spiritual deadness? **Christ will shine on that person**

12. (vv. 15-16) To be wise, what two things should you do?
 1. Walk / live wisely
 2. Make the most of your time
13. (v. 17) If you do these things, paying attention to all that is written in chapters 4 and 5, what will you better understand? What the will of the Lord is
14. (v. 18) What should you not do? Be drunk
 What should you do? Be filled with the Holy Spirit
15. (v. 19) Paul mentions what three kinds of music?
 1. Psalms
 2. Hymns
 3. Spiritual songs
 How are you to worship? _____

16. (v. 20) For what should you give thanks? All things

The remaining verses of this chapter teach believers concerning the marriage relationship of a husband and wife. Paul uses the comparison of Christ as the head of the body/church as an example of how the marriage relationship should be. The idea of subjecting, or submitting, yourself to another person means that you should be willing to set aside certain rights and desires for the sake of unity. It means placing yourself under the authority and leadership of another. When we choose to follow Christ as our head, we choose to place ourselves under his authority. So it is in marriage.

17. (vv. 22-24) What should wives do? Be subject to their own husbands
18. (v. 25) How should husbands treat their wives? With the love that Christ has for the church

Note: Christ was a servant/leader while on earth. He was not a dictator. He suffered humiliation and death on the cross for his church. This is the kind of attitude God desires from husbands. Think about it! What woman wouldn't submit to a husband who considered himself her servant, putting her needs and desires before his own even to the point of death.

19. (v. 26) How does Christ sanctify (make holy) and cleanse the church? _____
By the washing of water with the Word

Note: This "washing of water by the word" does not refer to water baptism but to the impact of the Word of God upon the church and in the life of the believer. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to change people's lives. (See Titus 3:5.)

20. (v. 27) How does Christ want to present the church to himself? Without blemish, holy / blameless
21. (v. 28) Because God says a husband and wife are one in Gen. 2:24, Mark 10:7-8, how should a husband love his wife? As his own body

22. (v. 29) How does a man take care of his own body? **Nourishes and cherishes it**
 In the same way, Christ cares for the church, which is his spiritual body of which we are individual members.
23. (v. 32) The spiritual union of a husband and wife is compared to the great mystery of what?
Christ and the church
24. (v. 33) A husband is to love his wife as if she were his own self. What is the wife to do? _____
Respect / Submit to her husband

CHAPTER SIX

“Pray for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel” [Eph. 6:19 (KJV)].

In the first nine verses of this chapter are some practical exhortations and guidelines for children, parents, servants and masters. In all these things we should do the will of God from the heart. In the following verses are some very important teachings concerning spiritual warfare and its impact on every believer. Be sure you understand what is the “Armor of God” and put it on.

1. What does God desire children to do?
 (v. 1) **Obey their parents in the Lord**
 (v. 2) **Honor their father and their mother**
2. (v. 3) This was one of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:12). What was the promise? _____
That they might live long in the land
3. (v. 4) In raising their children what should a father avoid? _____
Provoking / exasperating his children to anger
 What should fathers do? **Bring their children up in the instruction / nurture of the Lord**
4. (vv. 5-7) What should your attitude be towards those who are in authority over you? _____
Obedience as to Christ, doing God’s will from the heart
 (Today, verses 5-7 could apply to employers and employees, teachers and students, correction officers and inmates, etc.)
5. (v. 7) How are we told to serve? **As to the Lord and not men**
 (v. 8) Who will repay anyone that does good? **The Lord**
7. Why should the master (employer) treat his servants (employees) well? (v. 9) _____
The true master is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him
8. (v. 10) Where can you find spiritual strength? **In the Lord’s strength / power / might**

If you have an Old Testament, write out what Isaiah 40:31 says concerning this truth. _____

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength...they will run and not grow weary

9. (v. 11) We are told in verse 10 to be strong in the Lord; then in verses 11-18, we are told how to be strong.

Why must we put on the whole armor of God? **To stand firm against the schemes of the devil**

10. (v. 12) The Bible tells us that man is not our enemy. What unseen foes do we wrestle against?

1. **Principalities / rulers**

2. **Powers**

3. **Rulers of the darkness of this world**

4. **Spiritual wickedness in heavenly places**

11. (v. 14) What two things do you need to put on in order to stand?

1. **Belt of truth**

2. **Breastplate of righteousness**

12. (v. 15) What should go on your feet? **The preparation of the gospel of peace**

NOTE: The “gospel of peace” is the foundation on which your spiritual life was started (Rom. 5:1). You should be willing and ready to share it with others.

13. (v. 16) Why do we need the shield of faith? **To extinguish the fiery darts of the devil**

How can you gain faith? **By studying, meditating on, and applying the Word of God**

14. (v. 17) The last two pieces of armor are?

1. **Helmet of salvation**

2. **Sword of the Spirit**

NOTE: A sword is both a defensive and offensive tool. For the daily battles of life you will need a sword which is God’s Word. Take it with you, think on it, speak of it, feast on it, live by it.

15. In your war against satanic forces, what should you be doing? (v. 18) _____

Praying on all occasions in the Spirit and for all the saints

STOP! In verse 18 we are instructed to pray not only for our own benefit but for our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Take a few minutes to make a prayer list on a separate piece of paper. Write down a few names and some specific needs of people you know. Set aside a specific time each day this week to pray for them. If possible, encourage them by letting them know you are lifting them up to God in prayer. Write down any answers to these prayers, then thank God for them.

16. (vv. 19-20) What did Paul ask the Ephesians to pray for? _____

That he might fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel

NOTE: If you are not sure what the “mystery of the gospel” is, please review lessons 1-3 of this set. This mystery refers to the great truths that God revealed through Paul for the body of Christ, the Church of this age. Knowledge of this mystery is important to establish you in sound doctrine.

In Paul’s request of the believers, does he ever ask them to pray for his release from prison? No! His desire was that he might fulfill the mission given to him by Christ Jesus. Look again at Eph. 3:8-9 and read Christ’s task for Paul and for us. Yes, this is the work that was given to Paul, and also to us who desire to do God’s will and work in this present evil age. (Read also Col. 1:25-26.)