

Bible Correspondence Fellowship



Ephesians - Lesson 2 of 2

*Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit,
binding yourselves together with peace.*

Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

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.

Chapter 4

Please take time to read through chapter 4 before answering the questions.

1. In verse 4:1 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 4:2 this walk includes four things. What are they?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

2. (v. 3) What are we trying to keep or preserve? _____

3. 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. 4:4-6)

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____

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 4:7-11 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?

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. 4:11)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

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 4:12, write in your own words why Christ gave these gifts to his church.

7. (v. 4:13) These gifts are to help each member of the Body of Christ reach four goals.

What are the goals?

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

8. (v. 4:14) How might immature believers be tossed about? _____

What steps might you take to avoid being tossed about? _____

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

9. (v. 4:15) How should you speak the truth? _____ Who is the head? _____

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. 4:16) If we are unified, what will happen to the church/body?

11. (vv. 4:18-19) We are not to walk as unbelieving Gentiles do.
List four things that describe their condition.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

12. (v. 4:21) In this world, where people have trouble discerning between right and wrong,
where can truth be found? _____ (Read John 14:6)

13. (v. 4:22) We are to put off the old man/self (our sinful nature). How is this old nature
described? _____

14. (v. 4:24) What should the believer put on? _____
How is it created? _____ and _____

15. (v. 4:25) Instead of lying, what should you do? _____

16. In your own words explain verse 4:27.

17. (v. 4:28) Instead of stealing, what should you do? _____
Why? _____

18. (v. 4:29) Why is it important that only good words come out of your mouth?

19. How do you think you might grieve the Holy Spirit who lives in you? (v. 4:30)

What has the Holy Spirit done for you?

20. (v. 4:31) What are you to get rid of?

21. How are you to treat other members of the body? (v. 4:32)

How are you to forgive them? _____

Chapter 5

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil” Ephesians. 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.”

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NLT)

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. 5:1) What are you told to be? _____

2. (v. 5:2) How are you to walk? _____

What did Christ do for you? _____

3. (vv. 5:3-4) List six things that you should avoid.

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

4. Verse 5:5 describes unbelievers. What will they be denied?

5. (v. 5:6) What is going to come upon these sinners? _____

6. (vv. 5:7-8) Why should you no longer join in the behavior of these unbelievers?

How should you walk? _____

7. (v. 5:9) Name three things the light (Spirit) produces in believers?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

8. (v. 5:11) Instead of participating in the works of darkness, or even just observing them, what should you do? _____

9. What does verse 5:12 say about sins done in secret?

10. Read verse 5:13 and compare it with John 3:19-20. The main idea is that light exposes, or reproveth, sin. In John 3:20, why doesn't an evil person come to the light?

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. 5:14) What will happen to the person who wakes up from spiritual sleep or arises from spiritual deadness? _____

12. (vv. 5:15-16) To be wise, what two things should you do?

1. _____

2. _____

13. (v. 5:17) If you do these things, paying attention to all that is written in chapters 4 and 5, what will you better understand? _____

14. (v. 5:18) What should you not do? _____

What should you do? _____

15. (v. 5:19) Paul mentions what three kinds of music?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

How are you to worship? _____

16. (v. 5:20) For what should you give thanks? _____

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? _____

18. (v. 5:25) How should husbands treat their wives?

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. 5:26) How does Christ sanctify (make holy) and cleanse the church?

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. 5:27) How does Christ want to present the church to himself?

21. (v. 5:28) Because God says a husband and wife are one in Gen. 2:24, Mark 10:7-8, how should a husband love his wife? _____

22. (v. 5:29) How does a man take care of his own body?

In the same way, Christ cares for the church, which is his spiritual body of which we are individual members.

23. (v. 5:32) The spiritual union of a husband and wife is compared to the great mystery of what? _____

24. (v. 5:33) A husband is to love his wife as if she were his own self.
What is the wife to do?

Chapter 6

And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. Ephesians. 6:19 (NLT)

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. 6:1) _____

(v. 6:2) _____

2. (v. 6:3) This was one of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:12). What was the promise?

3. (v. 6:4) In raising their children what should a father avoid?

What should fathers do?

4. (vv. 5-7) What should your attitude be towards those who are in authority over you?

(Today, verses 5-7 could apply to employers and employees, teachers and students, correction officers and inmates, etc.)

5. (v. 6:7) How are we told to serve? _____

(v. 6:8) Who will repay anyone that does good? _____

6. Why should the master (employer) treat his servants (employees) well? (v. 6:9)

7. (v. 6:10) Where can you find spiritual strength?

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

8. (v. 6:11) 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?

9. (v. 6:12) The Bible tells us that man is not our enemy.

What unseen foes do we wrestle against?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

10. (v. 6:14) What two things do you need to put on in order to stand?

1. _____

2. _____

11. (v. 6:15) What should go on your feet? _____

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.

12. (v. 6:16) Why do we need the shield of faith?

How can you gain faith?

13. (v. 6:17) The last two pieces of armor are?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

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.

14. In your war against satanic forces, what should you be doing? (v. 6:18)

STOP! In verse 6:18 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.

15. (vv. 6:19-20) What did Paul ask the Ephesians to pray for?

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.)

What Bible version did you use for this lesson?: _____

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