

## COMMENTARY

### EPHESIANS

#### Chapter 4:

##### vs. 1-16

After all the spiritual blessings that God has showered upon us, we should live lives that are pleasing to God. This life is composed of humility, gentleness, patience and working together in harmony. This unity is to be kept intact by the power of God's Spirit. The body of Christ is to be one, just as there is only 1: Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism and God and Father of all.

Christ has given grace and talents to all who follow Him. He came and lived among man, showing us the way to God. Now that He has gone back to be with the Father, His followers are to continue to do His will. Some were to be apostles (one of the 12 disciples or Paul), prophets (those proclaiming God's Word), evangelists (those who bring others to Christ), pastors (those bringing Christians closer to Jesus and caring for them), and teachers (those sharing God's Word with others). All of them are working together for 1 purpose: to prepare Christians to serve so the body of Christ might be built up and be united in faith and in knowledge, becoming mature Christians.

Once we have reached maturity in Christ, we will not be easily confused with false teachings. We will instead become more like Christ as we speak God's truth in a loving way. Jesus is the Head of the Church and is the one we are to become like. He is the one who holds the body of believers together and helps it to grow, as each of us does our part in love.

##### vs. 17-32

Paul tells the Christians of Ephesus, to put off their former wicked ways and not to return to the worthless thinking and life of men. Their attitudes are to become like God's attitudes; striving to live righteous and holy lives.

Paul speaks now in particulars. Areas to work on are truthfulness, not sinning when we are angry or holding a grudge, to take only what belongs to you, speaking only those things which will build others up, be kind, compassionate and forgiving. In addition to this they were not to; grieve the Holy Spirit (doing what is wrong, and/or failing to do what is right), have fits of rage, be bitter, be angry, brawl, slander or allow any other type of malice or hurtful thinking to have a place in their lives.

## COMMENTARY

### EPHESIANS 5:

vs. 1-21:

Paul continues on with his instructions concerning Christian living. We are to love others, just as God and His Son, Jesus, have shown their love to us.

Sexual immorality, impurity, and greed are all improper thoughts and attitudes for God's people. There should not even be a trace in our lives. Obscene talking, foolish talk or coarse joking, immorality, impurity, and greed, are to be non-existent in our lives. Rather we should be giving thanks to God and living for Him.

Now that Christians have died to sin, we are to be examples to the rest of mankind, concerning how God wants us to live! We are to be lights, shining and showing the way to God. We are to expose evil and declare what is good. However, it is wrong to mention and discuss the what some people are doing.

We are to watch our lives so that we will stand out and be examples to others, making the most of every opportunity. Christians are to be filled with God's Spirit. We are to build one another up through the songs that we sing and by giving thanks to God for everything, in the name of Christ.

Paul tells all Christians to SUBMIT to one another, out of respect and love for Christ.

vs. 22-33:

Paul now begins to elaborate on how EVERY CHRISTIAN needs to submit. He begins with the marriage relationship and states that women are to submit to their husbands. They are not inferior but are free to voice their opinion. However, when the husband makes a decision, they are to support that decision. They are to submit to their husbands in this way, just as they submit to Christ.

Husbands are to love their wives wholeheartedly, always acting in the best interest of their spouse. They are not to make selfish decisions but act in the best interest of all concerned. If husbands will love their wives in this manner, wives will find it easier to submit. The more supportive the wife, the easier it will be for the husband to love his wife properly. Examples can be found for each spouse, in the relationship of Christ with His Church.

## COMMENTARY

### EPHESIANS 6:

#### vs. 1- 4

Paul continues with the relationship between children and their parents. Just as the parents are to maintain the proper respect and attitude towards one another, so children are to obey and honor their parents. If children will do so, they will find that they will reap the rewards of such behavior.

Fathers are instructed not to be overbearing and thereby frustrate their children, but are to make sure that they rear their child in the Lord.

#### vs. 5- 9

Paul now goes on to the relationship that Christians have with their employers or employees. We are to respect and obey our employers, just as we would if Christ was the one we are working for. In so doing, we do the will of God and be rewarded by Him.

Christian employers and supervisors are to respect and honor their employees in a manner that would be pleasing to God. God tells us to treat others, as we would like to be treated and to love our neighbor; if Christian employers and supervisors would act in accordance with this, their testimony and relationship would be greatly enhanced!

#### vs. 10-20

Christians are challenged to be strong in the Lord and to use those weapons and defenses that God has given us. The battle is against Satan and his forces and we cannot afford to lose. Those things that will help us overcome Satan are: truth, righteousness, the Gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Scriptures, and prayer. As we become familiar with these and rely more heavily upon them, we will find Christ winning greater victories, as He works through us.

Paul encourages the Christians to pray for one another, and especially him, as he continues to declare God's Word and will.

#### vs. 21-24

Paul concludes with instructions concerning Tychicus, who will be delivering the letter and filling them in on how Paul is doing. He finally concludes wishing them peace, love with faith, and grace to all who love and serve Christ; realizing that each of these things comes from God and His Son.

## STUDY GUIDE

Ephesians 4:

1. What are we to be (see verse 2)
2. What is there just ONE of?
3. What did Christ do when He ascended on high?
4. What did Christ give, for some to be?
5. What are these workers, to prepare? Until when?
6. In all things, whom are we to grow up into?
7. What have the Gentiles lost? (see vs. 19)
8. How are we to be made new?
9. How are we to be like God?
10. Why must people do something useful with their hands?
11. What only, is to come out of our mouths
12. How are we to forgive one another?

BONUS:

1. Explain why there are so many denominations and religions; if Ephesians 4:3-6 is true.
2. Explain what the unity in verse 13, would be like and how it is different from what we now have.
3. Explain the effect Christians can have, if they are the Children of Light, that God wants them to be.

## STUDY GUIDE

### Ephesians 5:

1. What is there not to be a hint of, in a Christians life?
2. What is the man, who is immoral, impure or greedy?
3. How are we to live, according to verse 8?
4. What is shameful to mention?
5. How are we to speak to one another?
6. To whom are we to submit, out of reverence for Christ?
7. Who are wives to submit to, even as they would to the Lord?
8. How are husbands to love their wives? (see vs. 25)
9. How are husbands to love their wives? (see vs. 28)
10. What does Christ do for the Church? (see vs. 29)
11. Who is the man to leave; and to whom is he to be united?
12. Who is the wife to respect?

### BONUS:

1. Do Christians need to be more conscious of what they say? Explain
2. Do Christians fail to understand verse 19? Explain.
3. How has Satan confused the teaching of submission?

## STUDY GUIDE

### Ephesians 6:

1. What are children told to do?
2. What is the promise to children who keep this commandment?
3. What instructions are given to fathers?
4. How are slaves to treat their masters?
5. We are to be working wholeheartedly, as if for whom?
6. What are masters not to do to their slaves?
7. Why are we to put on the armor of God?
8. Who is our struggle against?
9. List the armor of God.
10. Who are we to always keep on praying for?
11. How did Paul want to be able to declare the gospel?
12. According to verse 22, why did Paul send Tychicus?

### BONUS:

1. Explain how verses 1-4 need to be applied today. What changes would be made?
2. How could the business world benefit from God's teachings of employer, employee relationships?
3. Explain how each piece of armor can help you overcome Satan.