

CHRISTIANS ON CAMPUS

Ephesians 4-6 Review

Key Topics and Verses: Eph. 4-6

Keeping the Oneness of the Spirit

Ep 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,

Ep 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,

Ep 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace

Arriving at the Three Things

Ep 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,

Ep 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

Ep 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Learning Christ as the Truth is in Jesus

Ep 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,

Ep 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus

A Living That Does Not Grieve the Holy Spirit

Ep 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Ep 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

Walking in Love and Light

Ep 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

Ep 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light

Living By Being Filled in Spirit

Ep 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,

Ep 5:19 Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord,

Ep 5:20 Giving thanks at all times for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to *our* God and Father

A Mysterious Type of Christ and the Church

Ep 5:25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

Ep 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word,

Ep 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

Warfare to Deal with the Spiritual Enemy

Ep 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

Ep 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

Ep 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of evil in the heavenlies.

The Whole Armor of God

Ep 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which *Spirit* is the word of God,

Ep 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Today's Reading

In 4:3 this oneness is called "the oneness of the Spirit." The oneness of the Spirit is actually the Spirit Himself. In the illustration of the electricity and the lights, the oneness of the electricity is the electricity itself. There is not another element, apart from the electricity, that is the oneness of the electricity. The oneness of the electricity is simply the electricity itself. In the same principle, the oneness of the Spirit is not something apart from the Spirit.

In order to have the virtues spoken of in verse 2, we need a transformed humanity. In our natural humanity there is no lowliness, meekness, nor long-suffering. But these virtues are to be found in our transformed humanity, that is, [309] in the humanity of Jesus. In Matthew 11:29 the Lord Jesus said that He was meek and lowly in heart. Meekness and lowliness are characteristics of the humanity of Jesus. Any meekness or lowliness that we may seem to have in ourselves is a pretense and cannot survive any real testing. Praise the Lord that the humanity of Jesus in His resurrection life can be ours today! The more we are transformed, the more of the humanity of Jesus we have. By having the humanity of the resurrected Christ, we spontaneously have the virtues required to keep the oneness of the Spirit.

The oneness of the Spirit in verse 3 is the oneness of the divine life in reality, whereas the oneness in verse 13 is the oneness of our living in practicality. We already have the oneness of the divine life in reality. We only need to keep it. But we need to go on until we arrive at the oneness of our living in practicality. This aspect of oneness is of two things: the faith and the full knowledge of the Son of God. The faith does not refer to the act of our believing but refers to what we believe in, such as the divine person of Christ and His redemptive work for our salvation. The full knowledge of the Son of God is the realization of the revelation concerning the Son of God for our experience.

Verse 13 also says that we need to arrive at a full-grown man. A full-grown man is a mature man. Through regeneration the saints have become babes in Christ (1 Cor. 3:1). Now the saints need to grow into maturity (1 Cor. 3:6, Gk.; Heb. 6:1). Such maturity in life is needed for the practical oneness. If we are divided by doctrinal differences, it is an indication that we are childish. Such divisive doctrines are "toys." During the early stages of our Christian life, we may be fond of playing with such "toys." The more childish the saints are, the more "toys" they have. But as children grow up, they gradually lay aside their toys. According to verse 13, we also are to arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. The fullness of Christ is the Body of Christ (1:23), which has a stature with a measure. The fullness of Christ is simply the expression of Christ. As Christ's fullness, the Body is Christ's expression. Christ's fullness, the Body, has a stature, and with this stature there is a certain measure. Hence, verse 13 speaks of the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. To arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ is to arrive at the full building up of the Body of Christ. It is to arrive at the full completion of the building up of the Body.

Verse 29 says, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for needful building up, that it may give grace to those who hear.” The Greek word for corrupt signifies something that is noxious, offensive, or worthless. Our conversation should not corrupt others, but should build them up. The church and every member of the church need the proper building up. This building up is accomplished primarily by our speaking. What proceeds out of our mouth should be that which is good for the building up of the church and all the saints. Furthermore, the word out of our mouth should give grace to those who hear. Grace is God embodied in Christ as our enjoyment and supply. Our word should convey this as grace to others. The word that builds up others always ministers grace to the hearers. Our word should communicate God in Christ as enjoyment, imparting Christ to others as their life supply.

In verse 30 Paul says, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in Whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.” The word “and” at the beginning of this verse indicates that in addition to all the things mentioned in verses 25 through 29, one crucial thing is needed, that is, that we should not grieve the Holy Spirit. To grieve the Holy Spirit is to displease Him. The Holy Spirit abides in us forever (John 14:16-17); He never leaves us. Hence, He is grieved when we do not walk according to Him (Rom. 8:4). If we have a life according to the principle of truth with grace for the details of our daily walk, we shall not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. However, if we do not live this way, the Spirit within us will be grieved. For the Holy Spirit to be grieved means that He is not happy with us. Often when we feel unhappy, that feeling of unhappiness is actually the feeling of the Holy Spirit. However, when He feels happy within us, we are happy also. A proper life according to truth and in grace will always make the Holy Spirit happy and give us the joy of the Spirit.

According to the New Testament, Christ’s care of the church has two aspects. The inner aspect is the nourishing, and the outer aspect is the cherishing. To be nourished is to have something imparted into us inwardly, whereas to be cherished is to be warmed and comforted outwardly. Cherishing is related to environment. In our environment or circumstances the Lord Jesus is often real to us as a warm, tender breeze blowing upon us. As this warm breeze comes upon us, we have the sense of being soothed tenderly. Although this takes place in the environment, it is something more than the environment itself. It is even something that surpasses the Lord’s presence. When the Lord’s presence becomes a gentle breeze, we experience His cherishing. This cherishing includes soothing, comfort, and rest.

The charge to put on the whole armor of God is an imperative, a command. God has provided the armor for us, but He does not put it on for us. Rather, we ourselves must put on the armor God has provided. For this, we need to be empowered. Although God can empower us, we still must exercise our will to cooperate with Him. In the same principle, we must cooperate with God’s command to put on the armor. In verse 12 Paul also speaks of “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.” The heavenlies here refer to the air (2:2). Satan and his spiritual forces of evil are in the air. But we are seated in the third heaven above them (2:6). In fighting a battle, the position above the enemy is strategic. [534] Satan and his evil forces are under us, and it is their fate to be defeated by us. We need to be reminded again and again that our warfare is not against human beings, but against the evil spirits, the spiritual powers in the heavenlies...Apparently it is people of flesh and blood who damage the church. Actually it is Satan and his evil angels working behind them who cause the damage. Therefore, we must fight against these spiritual forces.

Verse 18 says, “By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit, and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints.” The phrase “by means of all prayer and petition” modifies the word “receive” in verse 17. By prayer we receive both the helmet of salvation and the word of God. This indicates that we need to receive the word of God by means of all prayer and petition. We need to pray as we are receiving the word of God. We have seen that the whole armor of God is composed of six items. Prayer may be considered the seventh. It is the means by which we apply the other items.

A Vital Christian Life

1. Call upon the Lord deeply and affectionately for 2 or 3 minutes after rising up.
2. Pray over 2 or 3 Scripture verses thoroughly and joyfully every morning.
3. Read 2 or 3 chapters of the Scripture consistently and persistently each day.
4. Participate in at least 2 or 3 meetings of the church regularly every week.
5. Spend time with 2 or 3 members as vital companions to pray and bear fruit corporately.