

## Bible Study – February 3, 2021 The Book of Ephesians – Chapter 4

We now begin the second half of Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus, which emphasizes the Christian's walk. The Christian life is compared to a walk because it starts with one step of faith, involves progress, and demands balance and strength.

## I. WALK IN UNITY (4:1–16)

We have been called to one body; therefore, as we seek to walk in unity, we are walking worthy of the calling (vocation) we have from God.

<sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_ for unity in the church are given in vv. 7-11.

<sup>"7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." <sup>9</sup> (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,"

The pastor-teacher is to nourish the saints with the Word of God and equip them for service.

The saints perform the work of the ministry.

Each saint shares in the growth of the church. Unfortunately, there are some Christians who are still babies who are unstable and easily led astray. Ephesians 4:14; 1 Cor. 3:1

The church is a body and must have spiritual food; this food is the Word of God. The church is edified (built up) through the Word of God. Acts 20:32

## II. WALK IN PURITY (4:17-23)

The first part of this chapter described the believer's relationship to the church; now Paul deals with the believer's relationship to the world. Certainly, we are "in Christ" and a part of the body; but we are also in the world, where there is temptation and defilement.

The way of the unsaved:

- (1) their minds are darkened because they believe lies and have not received the truth;
- (2) they are spiritually dead;
- (3) they have surrendered themselves to do all kinds of sin.

We are a part of God's new creation (v. 24 and 2:10) and therefore we walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4).

Corruption from the lips only means that there is corruption in the heart. The Spirit has sealed us (1:13–14); we should not grieve Him by allowing these sins of action and attitude to be in our lives. Anger and clamor should be done away with by means of forgiveness and Christian love.

## NOTES: