

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

April 3, 2024

Series - The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul

The Prison Epistles

The Letter to the Ephesians

Ephesians – Chapter Four

Memory Verse - Ephesians 4:30

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

Introduction

Chapter Four begins the practical section of this letter. Paul is basically admonishing us to be accurate representations on the outside as we are positionally on the inside. We are to be good ambassadors of His body.

I Walk Appropriate of your Calling (vs. 1 – 16)

The word vocation means calling or invitation. Here it has to do with our calling to be Christians. What Paul is saying here is that we are to walk (or act) as a Christian should act as part of His body.

Parallel Verses - Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:10

A In Humility (v. 2)

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. (Philippians 2:3)

B In Unity (vs. 3 – 16)

Humility among the parts of the body will produce unity in the body. Each part of the body must work in harmony with the other parts of the body so that the body will fulfill His will.

Parallel Verses – 1 Corinthians 12:11 – 31; Romans 12:1 - 10

1 Each part of the body is uniquely called and equipped. (v. 7)

Notice vs. 8 – 11. These are parenthetical verses which primarily deal with the gifts that Christ gives men (and women). These verses refer to Psalm 68:18 and explain how Christ first descended into the lower parts of the earth and released the saints in Abraham's Bosom, ascending with them to Heaven. (See Luke 16:19 – 31). The focus of Paul's discussion, however, is the gifts.

2 God has equipped some for leadership. (vs. 11 – 13)

- 3 God's leaders will help to perfect (mature) the saints which will cause them to do the work of the ministry which will edify the body of Christ. (v. 12)
- 4 This process continues until the whole body is mature (grown up vs. 13 – 16)
 - a Maturity means we are full grown doctrinally. (v. 14)
 - b Maturity means we work together. (v. 16)
 - c Mature members cause the body to grow. (v. 16)

II Walk Apart from the Crowd (vs. 17 – 32)

Parallel Verses - 1 John 2:15 – 17; Romans 12: 1- 2; 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 18

A Characteristics of the Gentiles (lost – vs. 17 – 19)

B Characteristics of Christians (vs. 20 – 32)

They Have Put Off:

- 1 The old man (v. 22)
- 2 Lying (v. 25)
- 3 Anger (v. 27)
- 4 Stealing (v. 28)
- 5 Gossip (v. 29)
- 6 Bitterness, wrath... (v. 31)

They Have Put On:

- 1 The new man (v. 24) Because of a renewed mind. (Romans 12:2; Titus 3:5)
Created in righteousness and holiness
- 2 Truth (v. 25)
- 3 Forgiveness (vs. 26 & 27)
- 4 Work (v. 28)
- 5 Grace (v. 29)
- 6 Kindness (v. 32)