

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 Sep Eph 1:1-14 God’s Plan is Eternal
- 2) 12 Sep Eph 1:15-23 God’s Plan Involves Power
- 3) 19 Sept Eph 2:1-10 God’s Power Changes People
- 4) 26 Sep Eph 2:11-22... God’s Power Changes Relationships
- 5) 03 Oct Eph 3:1-13 God’s Power Comes by Grace
- 6) 10 Oct Eph 3:14-21 God’s Power Provides Strength
- 7) 17 Oct Eph 4:1-16 Being in Step**
- 8) 24 Oct Eph 4:17-32 Being Different
- 9) 31 Oct Eph 5:1-14 Being Pure
- 10) 07 Nov Eph 5:15-21 Being Careful
- 11) 14 Nov Eph 5:22-33 Being Married
- 12) 21 Nov Eph 6:1-9 Being Respectful
- 13) 28 Nov Eph 6:10-24 Being Prepared

INTRODUCTION

- How should we walk in the manner we are called in?
- Should we strive for unity at all costs?
- And what happens if we speak the truth but not in love?
- If we have evangelists and pastors do we still have Apostles and Prophets today?

Passage	Comments
Eph 4:1-3	<p>Walking Worthy of Our Calling (in other words, How Would Jesus Do It?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be <i>humble</i> (no arrogance) • Be <i>gentleness</i> (not a bull in a china shop) • Be <i>patient</i> (slow down and wait for others) • Be <i>tolerant</i> (allow others to make mistakes) • Be <i>loving</i> (treat people like your grandkids – they can do no wrong to you) • Be <i>diligent</i> (laziness & sloppiness are not in our dictionary) • Protect the <i>Unity of the Spirit</i> (we are family, no matter what we stick together) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Unity at all cost concept is not biblical ♦ We do not compromise with evil intent ♦ Higher priority exist to protect the sheep from within and without the body of Christ
4:4-6	<p>Singleness of God’s Family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One body – one family, one race, one blood • One Spirit – singleness of purpose – to serve • One Hope – one goal → to win! • One Lord – one allegiance, not many • One Faith – there is only one way to win • One Baptism – we have a common experience • One God – He is the glue who holds us together
4:7-8	<p>...BUT!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are not cookie-cutter Christians • We are designed w/ uniqueness and individuality • We are gifted differently – not based on our capabilities or good looks, but on God’s desires
4:9-10	<p>He who descended and ascended is Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some take this literally that Christ descended to the physical lowest parts of the Earth where Hades is presumed to be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ ...and while in Hades, Christ preached to the prisoners in prison, then led “captivity captive” – He took the paradise portion of Hades to Heaven.....Ps 68:18; Lk 16:23; Jn 3:13; 1Pet 3:19 • Others take this descending/ascending to be metaphorical of Christ leaving the splendor He

Passage	Comments
	<p>had in Heaven to be totally humiliated on Earth, then ascending back to His glorious position</p>
4:11-14	<p>Gifted People for the Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some believe Apostles and Prophets still exist today (Apostolic churches, Catholics, Mormons, and some charismatic churches) • Evangelistic type churches (such as Baptists, Methodists and other Protestant groups) acknowledge that men like Apostle Paul and prophet Agabus were used only during the 1st century to established the Church • Since the establishment of the church we now have evangelists and pastors/teachers to continue “equipping” the church • All 4 types of “gifts” continue until we attain to full maturity (or the coming of Christ) and they help prevent us from chasing false teachings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Apostles and Prophets continue “equipping” us through the established word of God ♦ Evangelists and Pastors/Teachers equip us through their continued presence and example
4:15	<p>Speak the Truth in Love (Balancing Principle)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To speak the truth without love is tyranny • To have love without truth is licentious (license to do anything) • Remember the Bare Bones of Biblical Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <u>B</u>alancing (Love & Truth).....Eph 4:15 ♦ <u>O</u>verriding (Obey man vs God)..... 1Pet 2:13 vs Act 4:19 ♦ <u>N</u>egating (Feed vs No work, No eat)....Mt19:21vs 1Th3:10 ♦ <u>E</u>xplanatory (Sabbath made for man)..... Mark 2:27 ♦ <u>S</u>equential (confess, repent, restitution, restore)... 1 Jn 1:9
4:16	<p>The Church is Designed as a Body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As our bodies work best when every part is present and functioning – so does the church

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- Since Christ made us the way we are, we should not complain or grumble – we are but clay in the Potter’s hand
- He gifted us to function in unique ways – so use your gifts
- Unfortunately, most Christians, instead of being hands, feet, eyes or hears, are happy being stomachs and intestines – all they want to do is eat and poop – they avoid working and serving

NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 4:17-32. Again, those who are going to Hell go there out of their own willingness. How do we renew the spirit of our mind? Is it really OK to be angry? How can we tell when we grieve the Holy Spirit?

