**Ephesians: One In Him III**

**Practical Christianity in the Home**

Two devotionals: one in January and one in mid-May from Ephesians. Review.

**Eph 1:3-5** Every spiritual blessing IN CHRIST.

Our oneness is IN HIM! We are coming home. The home we come home to his His Home. His Church.

In Him we are:

v.4 chosen, holy and blameless

v. 5 We have adoption into his family!!! God took us in. He chose us!!!

Eph 2:1-7 Outside of Christ you were dead in your sins. Gratifying the cravings of your sinful nature. You were objects of wrath.

But God adopted us. Eph 2:11-18. Us Gentiles.

We were orphans:

a. v. 12 Separate from Christ

b. v. 12 Excluded from citizenship

c. v. 12 Without hope

d. v. 12 Without God

 but… v. 14-18

a. He has made the two (Jew and Gentile) He created family where there was none.

Look at what we have in the Bakersfield Church of Christ! Black, white, Hispanic Asian, country music fan, rocker and hip-hop, old and young and yes, even Republican and Democrat!!!!

We are one. How are we one? IN CHRIST!!!

Eph 1:7-9 What else do we have IN CHRIST?

a. v. 7 Redemption.

b. v. 7 Forgiveness lavished on us.

Lesson #2 The mystery of family and coming home revealed.

Ephesians 2:19-22.

v. 19 Members of the same household. Welcome home. This is your family.

v. 20 Our unity is based on where we stand.

Our foundation is Jesus Christ, but with the Bible as our standard (the apostles and prophets). Our family covenant is in place. We do not need to negotiate terms.

v. 21 We are a building. We are a temple. We rise and we fall together.

I do not join the family that “meets my needs.” You are my family. I ain’t going nowhere else!!!!!

Ephesians 3:2-13

Q: What is this mystery?

v. 6 The mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel: members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I love Eph 3:10!!!!! His intent (plan) was that now, **through the church—through us corporately, as a church—**the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

Eph 3:14-21.

What do we have in the household of Christ? What do we have in this crazy, somewhat disfunctional thing we call church or family—our home?

We have love that is high, wide, long and deep!!! That is four dimensions, folks!!!

v. 19 If only we knew this love! What is it like? How can I describe it?

It “surpasses knowledge.”

Eph Ch 1-3 Theology Ephesians Ch 4-6 Practical Application.

Which is it?

1. Paul is giving some cool theology, but the theology is there to support his real purpose, which is to admonish them in Christian living.

Or

2. Paul is giving a deep treatise on the theology of Christ, and throws in a few useful applications at the end to illustrate what he just taught.

My answer: Neither. Paul states his theology of Christ and then illustrates his theology of Christ with many practical examples, specifically about life in the Church. They are both examples of and applications of….

A couple of examples:

Eph 4:29 No unwholesome talk. Why? v. 30 Because it will grieve the Holy Spirit which is in you as a deposit (Eph 1:13-14)

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate. Why? because God in Christ forgave you (Eph 1:7, 2:8-10)

**Ephesians 4:1-6** Paul the prisoner, whose spiritual resume is second to none, literally says:

“Live a life worthy of the calling.” Live a life worthy of Ephesians Ch 1-3. Worthy of the grace you were given. Worthy of having been adopted as a son or daughter. Worthy of the love that is high and wide and long and deep—the love that surpasses understanding.

Are you living a life worthy of what God has done for you?

So, now let’s get down to a family meeting:

We need unity here. Without unity of heart and mind, we cannot do anything significant for God.

Q: Do you want to see God do great things through this church?

v. 2 Then you need to be completely humble, gentle and patient.

Last Sunday with Ed and Leo. Leo: was I perfectly humble and patient there?

v. 3 Make every effort to maintain unity. Q: How much effort? Every effort. That is why I so strongly and publicly warn against posting provocative things on line.

That is why, when you have a problem with someone, you go and talk to them. Period. End of story.

But I don’t like what the worship team is doing! OK, if you can do something that “makes every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit” then go for it.

But I do not agree with their politics or their perspective on Covid-19.

Example in SD.

Otherwise, keep your opinion to yourself.

v. 4-6 Why? Because there is exactly one body… And there are a few things we agree on.

One hope: heaven

One Lord: Jesus

One baptism. (the one by immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins) (Aileen)

Ephesians 4:7-13 In our family, different people have different roles.

v. 8 They are based on the gifts God has given them.

CHRIST gave us evangelists, elders (I am NOT a pastor!!!!!), teachers, Bible-group leaders, HOPE coordinators, faith-sharers, tech, sound and music ministry people,

BTW, we have too few people around here doing too many jobs. I ALWAYS ask Mike and Yessie. I ALWAYS ask Cecilia. What is your gift, what is your role and what are you doing here?

What is the job of the leaders? To go to the hospital? To organize prayer nights? To find locations for church retreats?

v. 12 My job is to equip you!!!

Equip you with Bible knowledge, encouragement, vision, goals, spiritual training.

v. 12 The Goal. The goal tonight!!!!

1. The body built up. (not individuals, the body)

2. Create unity.

I want to help you to be mature. I REALLY want this. I cannot explain how badly I want this. Please help me! Come to meetings, do the devotionals I gave you last January. Come to the prayer nights! Come share in Tehachapi. Come to the HOPE events.

v. 13 Read this!!! Get this picture!!!

Eph 4:14-16

No longer infants. Imagine if your kids remained infants. It was an exciting time. But I am glad Ben no longer wears diapers. Our young Christians are an absolute delight!!!

v. 14 But we still have some who are weak in their doctrine. We still have a few who are not even sure that we need to have a deep repentance, a real, vibrant discipleship to Jesus, and then immersion into Christ for salvation.

There are some who embrace parts of premillennialism and pray-Jesus-into-your-heart.

Amen. We have some work to do.

Eph 4:16 Again. Get the picture. The body builds itself up. Not me doing it. Y’all doing it together.

Heidi calls Sarah. Tony calls Paul. Andrew calls Joe. Ed calls Monroe. Pulling in the weakest links. And we have some…

We gotta get out there in the spiritual gym and get some exercises going, and do not wait for me. Please!!!!!

You are a ligament. You are a tendon. You are creating unity. You are helping to pull together. Muscles are useless without tendons and ligaments.

Ephesians 4:17-25 Oh, and we need to deal with sin in our lives and in the lives of others.

4:25 Let’s get real here. Your neighbors, co-workers, and family are messed up!

Many of us are way too cozy with sin.

Your father, brother, aunt, fellow student, shopping buddy, golfing partner is:

Darkened

Separated

Ignorant

Lost sensitivity

Indulging in all kinds of impurity.

4:22 Put off the old self. Remember Ephesians 2:1-8 You were dead. Eph 2:12 You were separate and excluded from God’s people.

v. 13 But now you have been brought near.

Implication. You have been brought far from the world!!!! Are you acting that way.

Eph 4:26-5:2 Live like this!!!

Put off lies.

Put off anger that leads to sin.

Put off stealing (and your friends who still steal)

Put off unwholesome talk.

Q: What is the definition: Talk that does not build up.

Did that build up? No? Then don’t say it.

What you said to your wife, son, co-worker, teacher, fellow student. Did that build them up?

Put off bitterness

Put off malice (hoping bad to come on others)

5:2 How? Walk in love.