**Ephesians: One In Him IV**

**Coming Home**

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

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.

Eph 2:11-18.

We were:

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 God adopted us into his family.

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

Ephesians 2:19-22.

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

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

Ephesians 3:2-13 The mystery

v. 6 The mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel: members together of one body.

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. In Christ’s household, we have love that is high, wide, long and deep!!! It “surpasses knowledge.”

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

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

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

We need unity here.

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.

v. 3 Make every effort to maintain unity. Q: How much effort? Every effort.

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

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

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

v. 12 The Goal.

1. The body built up and made mature.

2. Create unity.

**Ephesians 4:17-24**  Oh, and we need to deal with sin in our lives and in the lives of others.

V 17-19. Do not live like the Gentiles do. We are different!

We had futile thinking,

We were darkened,

We were ignorant.

We had hardened hearts

We had lost sensitivity—we were unaware of many of our sins.

We gave ourselves over to sensuality and greed

Do not be deceived about the reality of the world!

This is your neighbor, your co-worker, your fellow student, your family member!!!

You can put lipstick on a pig, but they are still a pig.

v. 20-23 But that is not what you were taught around here.

v. 23 We need to put off these old things. How is it going???

v. 24 Put on the new self.

Romans 13:14 Clothe yourself with Christ.

When you step out the door, you put on a shirt, shoes, pants (hopefully)

Put on Christ!!!

Let Christ be the first thing people see when they see you!

**Eph 4:25-5:2** And there are some old clothes you definitely need to take off.

“Put off”

v. 25 lies

v. 26 sin that comes from anger

v. 29 unwholesome talk. What is that? Talk that does not build up/edify those you talk to. Put off filthy language, questionable jokes, unhelpful criticism, gossip. Put them off!

What have your conversations been like lately?

v.31 bitterness, rage, anger, arguing and down-putting (slander)

These are sins that cause disunity, division.

These are sins that make it hard for us to “Come Home.” To be family.

4:32-5:2 Put off these things.

When you go out of the house, when you walk into work, when you show up at church, when you enter the classroom…

Put on Christ (Eph 4:24 the new self, Romans 13:14). In other words.. Eph 5:2 Put on love as a garment.

Now, our last lesson from Ephesians (because Josh did Ephesians 6)

**Eph 5:3-13**

More sins to put off. Q: Are you OK with me talking about specific sins?

v. 3 Not even a hint of sexual immorality or impurity.

Do not do anything that could even be (falsely) interpreted as impure.

Single brother—do not hang out in a single sister’s bedroom, do not spend long time alone with a sister. Do not spend time in dark places. Make sure there are other people around.

Married brother—do not have lunch with another woman, even if it is innocent.

Or if you do so, be super open about it.

4 years ago I was with a well-known brother and we were turning around the car, and ended up in the parking lot of a sex shop. We got out of there like a bat out of hell.

Do not go alone to certain movies, bars, casinos. Do not go to a place where, if another disciple saw you, they would be tempted to think “Why is he/she in there?”

Two years ago I needed ice for a campus event. I walked into a liquor store. Mistake?

Let us avoid even the possible appearance of immorality, impurity

v. 3 And greed. Do not throw money around. Don’t buy super expensive cars, clothing, vacations. Why are you buying $120 shoes? Again, not even a hint of greed. “I like nice things.” Is there a hint of greed there?

What does a “hint” of greed look like?

v. 4 Obscenity (obviously!!!), but also foolish talk and coarse joking.

If these start at work, in class, at a family gathering, get out of there. Say something. Do not just blend in!!!

Why? v. 5 These kind of people go to hell. This is not kingdom of God stuff.

You are a citizen of the Kingdom of God. Let us live like that!!!!

v. 7 When people in the world live this way, distance yourself from them.

v. 8-13 We are children of light. Light exposes darkness.

If your co-workers gossip (or, heaven forbid if fellow disciples gossip), point it out.

If they joke about lusting after women—looking at their bodies, expose that!!!

(example in the copy shop when I did that).

Rosa Santiago is like this. She tells it like it is (but she does so in love)

Q: Who do you know that is bold in exposing darkness, both in the church and outside? Imitate that person.

v. 11 Have you been exposing darkness? Are you willing to call out racism, greed, sexual immorality, lust, drunkenness, profanity.

v. 13. Everything exposed by the light…. Who does this exposing? You!!!

**Eph 5:15-20** Summary.

Be careful. Be wise. Think about your life, what you say, where you go, what you do.

v. 16 In your daily life, consider every situation as an opportunity.

In the store, at work, at family gatherings.

What is my opportunity here to expose darkness, show Christ.

v. 18 Be aware of what the Holy Spirit is telling you to do or to say.

**Eph 5:21-6:9** Coming Home. Roles in the Body.

Eph 5:21. Here is the bottom line:

Our family only works if we submit ourselves to one another.

Paul is going to talk about specific roles and specific relationships, but this is the bottom line.

We are so quick to express our agenda, to voice our opinion, to make our need known.

How will this family operate smoothly?

Eph 5:21 Let us submit to one another. Let us consider the needs of our brothers and sisters before our own.

Eph 5:22-6:4 (read the whole thing). It all starts in the home, does it not?

Wives, let your husbands take the lead. That is in the Bible. (but I prefer to let the women talk to the women about that, so I am moving on…)

Husbands, lead!!!! How? By loving your wives.

Would your wife say with great confidence: My husband really loves me and cares for me!!!!

v. 27 How do you know if you are doing a good job? Is your wife radiant?

(Well, my wife is always criticizing and nagging me. She has no time to be radiant as she is always criticizing)

Well, that is her role, but what are you doing to make her radiant?

v. 28 He who loves his wife, loves himself.

Men: you want your wife to be more loving? Love her!!!! Serve her!!! Listen to her!!! Take her burdens!!! Do the dishes, clean the bathroom, ask her opinion, take her on a date.

v. 29 You take a shower, you work out, right?

Make sure her needs are met first!

Eph 6:1-3 Children obey (but they are not here in this class, so I won’t cover that)

Eph 6:4 Parents: Do not try to overly control your children. If you correct them, do it in love. Do not ever yell at them!!! If you do “control” them, always remember it is so that you can let them go! Start letting them go as early and as soon as you responsibly can.

Eph 6:5-9 Workers—be the best worker you can. Give your heart, not just your body to your work. Do your best to submit to your boss, even if he/she is not a reasonable person. Who knows? You might convert your boss by your behavior.

v. 9 Bosses, use the Golden Rule of being a boss. Remember who the ultimate boss is.

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of the old self do you want to put off?

2. What part of the new self do you want to put on?

3. What does “exposing the darkness” around us mean to you, practically? What might it involve you doing?