

EPHESIANS – CHAPTER 4

Vs1 Therefore – as a consequence of all that God has done for you, (doctrine) chapters 1–3, you are owing a response to Him – a REASONABLE DEDUCTION

I, the prisoner of the Lord – I am where I am because of His Purpose or I am where I am because of Him!

Walk worthy of your calling: Rom 1:6–7a; Phil 1:27; Col 1:10
Walk (not work) 1Thes 2:12; Esther 3:4

Be what you Are

Vs2 Walk Col3:12–17

1. With all humility Acts 20:17–27ff; IPet 2:18–25
2. With all gentleness 1Cor 6:7

“Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?”

Gen 13:8–9 “You choose first and I will take what is left-over”.

3. With patience
4. Showing preference for one another 1Cor 8:13; 1Cor 10:33
5. In love Rom 12:9–21; 1Pet 2:17

“Love the brotherhood”

Vs3 Being diligent to (making every effort) Rom 12:18

Preserve the Unity of the Spirit

In the bond of peace (What we believe forms the basis for our unity)

1Cor 14:33 “God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.”

2Cor 13:11; 2Thes 3:16; 2Tim 2:22

NOTE: Strife results in disunity; peace promotes unity!

Vs4 One body – Eph 2:14–22 One family – Eph 3:15; Rom 12:4–5
One Spirit – 1Cor 12:13 One hope – Rom 8:22–25

Vs5 One Lord – Rom 14:7–9 One faith – objective body of truth
One baptism – Gal 3:27–29; again 1Cor 12:13

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Vs6 One God

1. Father of all (Rom 4:11–12 restricted sense)
(Eph 3:14–15 broader sense)

Father – creation

Heb 12:9	“The Father of Spirits”
Jas 1:17	“The Father of lights”
Job 38:7	angels are the “sons of God” (Job 1:6; Job 2:1; Gen 6:4)
Lk 3:38	Adam, the Son of God – from Adam all came
Mal 2:10	do we not all have one Father
Acts 17:29	being then the offspring of God

1Cor 8:6

God the Father – His creatures

- a. Father – intimate relationship

Israel – Ex 4:22 Israel is my Son, even my firstborn

Church – 1Jn 3:1 Children of God, and such we are

Vs2 now we are the children of God

(note: 1Jn3:10–two children)

- b. Father – of our Lord Jesus Christ Jn 20:17

2. Over all 1Cor 15:27–28

3. Through all Acts 17:22–28, esp v28

Where can we go to be away from Him

4. In all

Conclusion: Ps 139

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Vs 7 “No member of the Body of Christ is able, without the assistance of other believers, to supply his own necessities.”

(John Calvin paraphrased)

Gifts to individuals

To each one of us (every one of us – no one excluded)

Grace

A gift of the Holy Spirit – was given (for the common good)

I Cor 12:7,11 see vs 1–31) Rom 12:3–8

Was given

His call, not our earning – our merit is not a factor – no place

for boasting

1 Cor 4:7

According to, not out of

The measure of Christ’s gift Jn 14:14–18

Observations

1. No one has all the gifts.
2. No member of the Body is without a spiritual gift.
3. The gift is not equivalent to a talent

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Vs 8–10

He ascended

After descending 1Pet 3:18–20

Leading a host of captives

Giving gifts to men

Why did He descend and ascend?

To fill all things Eph 1:18–23; 1Cor 15:22–29;
Phil 2:9–11; Col 1:15–18

Please Note: The ascended Lord who we worship is the same Lord
Who came down and lived among men!

Vs 11ff Gifts are given to the Body of Christ as a corporate entity.
(Remember that the gifts given to each individual are actually
gifts to the Body)

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Apostles – the Twelve | 1Cor 15:5; Rev 21:14 |
| a. Barnabas & Paul | Acts 14:14; 15:22–23 |
| b. James, the Lord’s brother | Gal 1:19 |
| c. Silvanus and Timothy | 1 Thes 1:1; 2:6 |
| d. Andronicus & Junias | Rom 16:7 |

See 1 Cor 15:7

Prophets Acts 11:27–28; 21:9–11; 15:23;

1Cor 14:24–25

NOTE: The above gifts were given to build the foundation–Eph 2:20

The following are for building upon that

foundation.

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2. Evangelists Acts 21:8; 2Tim 4:5

3. Pastor Teachers (linked in the original)

Tend the flock of God Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1–4

“apt to teach” 1Tim 3:2; Titus 1:7–9

All teachers are not pastors. Acts 13:1; Rom 12:7

1Cor 12:28

Vs 12 He gave...for (purpose of those gifts – individual and Corporate

The equipping (perfecting) of the saints

For the work of service

To the building up of

1 Thes 3:10; Heb 13:21; 1 Pet 5:10

Vs 13 Until we all attain to – the goal of the process –
Travelers arriving at their destination

1. The unity of the faith

2. The unity of the knowledge of the Son of God

3. A mature (perfect) man – fully developed

4. The stature belonging to the fullness of Christ

Christ fully formed

Vs 14 as a result

1. No longer children

2. No longer tossed here and there by

(waves of doctrines) not rudderless

3. No longer tossed here and there by

a. Every wind of doctrine

b. Treachery of men

c. Craftiness 2 Cor 11:3

Deceitful scheming 2 Tim 3:13

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Vs 15 But – (as a consequence of)

1. Speaking the truth – in love
2. Grow up – in all aspects
3. Into Him who is the Head Col 2:18–23

Note: Stability rather than tossed around

Vs 16 From Christ the head

1. Whole Body is fitted
2. Held together
3. Supplied by the parts He has given – the Body depends upon its parts for its growth

Every Part

- a. Supplies
- b. Has a proper way to work
- c. Causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself.

Note: NOT NUMERICAL GROWTH

In love

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS REGARDING THE
WALK (OR DAILY LIFE) OF THE CHRISTIAN

1. MOTIVE

As a believer we are:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1) perfected forever | Heb 10:14 |
| 2) accepted in the beloved (Eph 1:6 KJV) | Eph 1:4-6 |
| 3) recipient of every spiritual blessing | Eph 1:3 |

The only motive

THOUGHTS...continued

QUESTION:

Are we trying to secure the favor of God – or –

Are we living in the favor of God already secured in Christ

Eph 4:1; 2 Cor 5:14

Why do we do what follows?

2. STANDARDS (higher)

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself – has become –
John 13:34

2 Cor 10:5; Gal 5:16; Eph 4:30; 5:2; 1 Thes 5:19;
1 Pet 2:9-12ff; 1 Jn 1:7

3. METHOD

1 Jn 5:4 “faith overcomes the world”

Gal 5:16-18

1 Jn 4:4

Jude 9

4. CURE FOR SIN 1 Jn 1:1-2:2

5. RELATIONSHIPS - the result of that which has been done

GOD THE FATHER

SON

HOLY SPIRIT

SATAN

not Eph 2:1-3

THOUGHTS...continued

WORLD SYSTEM

Jn 17:11-13

HUMAN GOVERNMENTS

Rom 13:5

BODY OF CHRIST

Eph 2:19

UNREGENERATE

2 Cor 5

ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITIES

1 Pet 2:5,9; Elders?

HUSBANDS; WIVES

Eph 5:21-33

CHILD

Eph 6:1-3

MASTERS

Eph 6:4-9

WEAK

Rom 14:1-9

STRONG

Rom 14:1-9

6. STRANGERS & EXILES

Heb 13:2

7. AMBASSADOR

2Cor 5:20

8. SUFFERING

Rom 8:16-17

9. SACRIFICES

Rom 12:1-2

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Vs 17 This I say therefore Col 2:4
Walk no longer...

Lay aside the old self vs 22

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind vs23

Put on the new self vs 24

Therefore:

Affirm together with the Lord – came from Him;
He is the Source of this admonition!

Walk no longer as the Gentiles walk – our lives
should not be conformed to the standard
of the world around us
1Pet 4:1–5; Eph 2:1–3; 4:22

The futility of their mind – Rom 1:18–23ff;
2Pet 2:9–22

Note: It does not matter what a man thinks,
reasons, finds acceptable, etc.

It matters what God has revealed.

Do not walk in the futility of the mind, but rather in
the light of His Word.

(The mind of the lost may be highly developed in
its intellectual attainments, but spiritually –
dead)

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Vs 18–19 The unbeliever (Gentile; the people who live around you)

1. Are darkened in their understanding

The evidence of God lies all about them in Creation, but they cannot perceive this light which is available to them.

This does not mean that they don't live "godly" lives, but that they are separated from the Divine life which God imparts.

in them – more than being ignorant of God,
this ignorance is engraved in them –
it is who they are!

at the same time they are responsible for this
condition: Rom 1:21–28 even though they
knew...they:

- a. did not honor Him as God (Jesus?)
- b. did not thank Him
- c. Became futile in their speculations
- d. Professed themselves to be wise

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e. exchanged....for

abandoned.....for

f. see fit to....any longer

g. fill with all...

h. vs 32

God gave them over, vs 24, 26, 28

God gives sinners up to the course of their own choosing. It is at once a guilty choice of men and a judicial act of God.

2. Excluded from the life of God

Because:

a. of the hardness of their heart

due to hardness not blindness of their heart

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- b. have become callous – insensitive and hardened;
 - past feeling
 - fail to discern conduct that is morally right, or
 - the features in their own behavior that are
 - spiritually reprehensible
- c. given themselves over to:
 - i. sensuality
 - ii. practice every kind of impurity
 - iii. done with greediness – the manner in which
these sins were indulged.
(called idolatry)

Man without God is man with all hindrances to the practicing of moral uncleanness removed!

Vs 20–21

But – contrast

You did not learn Christ in this way.

Becoming a “believer” is not the product of human “accomplishment.”

It is not the product of human progression.

It is not something that evolved out of our natural human experiences.

It is the product of a Divine Act...

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“if indeed you have”...does not imply doubt, but assumes that the condition is true, i.e. you did hear, didn't you?

Saying it this way makes each person to consider the question and answer it for themselves.

(To answer “yes” is to place oneself under obligation.)

1. learned Christ - Mt 11:28-30
2. heard Him - Rom 10:13-17
3. been taught in Him when you learned Jesus...
He has become our “sphere of instruction”.
4. truth is in Jesus - not found in the world;
found in a Person - Jn 14:6

Vs 22-24 What did you learn in reference to your former manner of life?

Lay it aside - it was the same life which is still being lived
by the lost - Put it Off

Col 3:9-10

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At the moment of salvation all believers become new
Creatures in Christ -

Spiritual realities need to be translated into daily living
Col 3:5; Rom 6:11-13

Be renewed in the Spirit of your mind - continuous
process

Put on the new self - exhibit Christlikeness

Truth is to replace deceit

Vs 25-32 THEREFORE

1. Lay aside falsehood

2. Speak truth

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3. Be angry, do not sin –

There is a righteous anger.

Anger indulged in is sin, even when it begins as
righteous anger.

Emotional anger escapes the control of the mind and
the Spirit.

4. Do not let the sun go down on your anger

We are to put definite limitations of time on the
exercise of our anger.

5. Do not give the devil an opportunity

Anger which is not curbed, lays a person open to....

1Pet5:8

6. Steal no longer – rather labor to share

Present tense – the one stealing

7. Negative – Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth

Words which are worthless or useless, rotten or
decayed

Speech which has no value

James 3:2–11

8. Positive – Speak words that are good for:

a. edification

b. meeting the need of the moment

c. giving grace to the hearer

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9. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit

10. Let all _____be put away from you

a. bitterness – resentment in the heart

refuses reconciliation; leads to

b. wrath – outbursts of passion

c. anger – has become a permanent state of being

d. clamor – violent arguments; yelling

e. slander – clamor directed

f. malice

11. Be kind to one another

12. Be tender-hearted

13. Forgive – as you were forgiven

