

"The Practice of the Believer"

Ephesians 4-6

Part 7

Introduction: The last time we were together in our study of Ephesians was October 11. In the last study we were looking at the believer's practice.

Review

This letter was written to *Gentile* believers who made up the church at Ephesus. Because they had no Old Testament background Paul had to take them way back to eternity past in order to explain to them concerning the riches they had in Christ. In chapters 1-3 Paul taught them doctrine concerning who they were **IN CHRIST**. He also taught us about who we are in Christ.

1. **Blessed with all spiritual riches in Christ.**
2. **Made holy and blameless.**
3. **Placed into God's royal family.**
4. **Accepted in Christ.**
5. **Redeemed by His blood.**
6. **Forgiven of all our sin debt.**
7. **Blessed with an Eternal Hope.**
8. **Sealed by the Spirit**

These are from Ephesians 1. The most difficult part concerning Ephesians 1-2 is to separate our feelings from the facts. There are times when we do not **FEEL** like these all apply to our lives.

In chapter 2 Paul reminded us of where we have come from. We were saved from the depths of sin and placed into the body of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:6-7

⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

At the end of chapter 2 and into chapter 3 Paul explained that we are now part of the body of Christ which never existed before the Day of Pentecost. We are now brought near whereas before we were separated from God. Now in Christ we are one **NEW MAN**.

Ephesians 2:13-15

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

At the end of chapter 3 Paul offered up a wonderful prayer for all believers.

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁵ Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

¹⁶ That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Then we came to chapter 4 and in this chapter, Paul began to teach us how to live based upon who we are in Christ. In Ephesians 4-6 we are taught how to live the Christian life. Paul gave us the blueprint for the church in verses 7-16.

Notice Ephesians 4:17

This statement led us into our last message in which Paul gave us the key to the Christian life.

Notice Ephesians 4:22-24

This is the key to the victorious Christian life. It is not overcoming sin in your own strength. It is not praying for strength to overcome sin. It is allowing the Holy Spirit to live the life of Jesus Christ in us.

Romans 6:6-7, 11, 18

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

¹¹ *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

¹⁸ *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

The OLD MAN is rendered powerless by the CROSS. The cross is the only thing he will submit to. You cannot put him under the Law and change him. You cannot bludgeon him into submission. It is only the CROSS that will take the power from the OLD MAN.

So, we are to reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive unto God.

This now brings us to where we are today.

"Let's Move Forward"

Part 3

It is not enough to know this Truth concerning how we have been crucified with Christ. We are required to live this Truth out. TRUTH known does not give you the victory, but it is TRUTH LIVED that will give you the victory. Paul is now going to show us how to live this TRUTH.

1. Speak the Truth.

Notice Ephesians 4:25

Paul begins by exhorting believers to speak the truth. Why does he start here? I believe he starts here because this is the most universal temptation known to man. It is the temptation to misrepresent the truth or to somehow distort the truth. This is a basic characteristic of the sin nature/the old man. Lying comes natural to all of us.

I have two grandsons who both know it is wrong to lie but at the same time they see lying as "A VERY PRESENT HELP IN A TIME OF NEED".

The sad thing is that many believers see lying in the same way. If it is needed, they will use it. Lying is something that we were not taught because it came naturally to each of us. It is straight from Satan.

John 8:44

⁴⁴ Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Satan is the father of lies and we have all learned very well how to do the same thing. **But now, as believers we are to put that off.** That was part of the old life, but Jesus has died to set us free from that sinful practice.

1 John 3:5

⁵ And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

When the temptation comes at us to lie, we must not give in but rely on the power of Jesus Christ within us so that we will tell the Truth.

Now let me explain something that many believers do not understand.

We were created to REFLECT God.

Genesis 1:26-27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Man was created in the image of God and therefore we are to reflect God and His character to the world. Let us notice something which Jesus taught.

Matthew 22:18-21

18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Now we know that sin has distorted the image of God in man, but now that we are saved, we have the power to reject sin and to face temptation in a way that God is glorified.

There is one thing that God is concerned about more than anything else: HIS GLORY! The glory of God is the outward expression of who God is. The glory of God is the making known of God's WEALTH and WORTH and WEIGHT. God is a great God and throughout history He has been making Himself known to men and angels.

Let us consider a few verses and see what God said in:

1. Joshua's Day

Joshua 4:23-24

23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:

24 That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

2. David's Day

1 Samuel 17:46

⁴⁶ This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.**

3. Solomon's Day

1 Kings 8:43

⁴³ Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: **that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel;** and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

4. Elijah's Day

1 Kings 18:36-38

³⁶ And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, **let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel,** and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, **that this people may know that thou art the LORD God,** and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

5. King Hezekiah's Day

2 Kings 19:19

¹⁹ Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, **that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.**

6. Ezekiel's Day

Ezekiel 36:23

²³ And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

God desires to be made known to all the earth.

Psalm 46:10

¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

It is our responsibility to glorify God in the way we live, and one way is to tell the Truth.

Notice Ephesians 4:25 again.

Conclusion:

When a believer lies and is caught in the lie it damages the reputation of the entire body of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.