

Behaviour for Holy Lifestyle

Practice of the Christian (4:1-6:9)

The first section (1:1-3:21) speaks of the Calling of the Church in terms of the Christian's position and power. In this next section, Paul calls believers into the practical outworking of their position in Christ by addressing lifestyle practices.

1. Paul gives five commands concerning how believers are to live:-

- a. Walk worthy of Calling in _____ 4:1-16
- a. Walk in _____ 4:17-32
- a. Walk in _____ 5:1-6
- a. Walk in _____ 5:7-14
- a. Walk in _____ 5:15-6:9

The following are some questions that can be used as guidelines to study Paul's exhortations concerning the Practice of the Christian:-

- i. What is the **Call to Action**? *Walk in*
- i. **How** is it be carried out / or not carried out? (i.e. manner of lifestyle) Any specifics on behavioural pattern?
- i. What is the **Basis** for Paul's Call to Action?
- i. What is the **Purpose or Result(s)** of fulfilling the Call to Action?
- i. Are there **Application Contexts** being cited as examples for the practice of the Action?

[NB: the answers in each Bible text are not necessarily found in sequential order of the questions raised above]

Eph 4:1-16 (ESV)

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness,

with patience, bearing with one another in love,

3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." 9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

What areas are being discussed in the passage that have implications on unity?

v.13 Purpose/Result of Call to Action:

- Members United in _____ and _____ of Son of God
Maturity – evidenced by _____

Diverse Gifts

- ✧ Spiritual gifts are
 - a) Gifts of _____
 - b) Given by _____
- ✧ Purpose/Reason for the giving of gifts:
 - a) To equip believers for _____
 - b) _____

Doctrinal Stability:

- ✧ v.14 Result of Maturity: Not swayed by false teachings. Implication: _____
- ✧ How do we grow in maturity? Speak _____
- ✧ Body Growth - Each part working properly, building & growing

Working.. building ... growing
Spiritual maturity is not merely increase in knowledge of God's word. but importantly, the practice of it.

2. The prominent themes that Paul addresses in Eph 4:1-6:9 concerning the Practice of the Christian are:
 - Unity of Faith & Maturity in Knowledge of God
 - Truth-speaking in love
 - Purity and separation from worldly ways
 - Living the new life of God

3. The contexts of application are always _____
 - With Trinitarian God
 - With oneself
 - With the community of believers
 - With spouse, family
 - With employer/employee
 - With the world

Summary

Paul is summoning for the Christian life experience to be an integration of

- identity (who we are in Christ),
- theology (what we believe) and
- ethics (how we behave).

It is a summons to unity, maturity and purity.

It emphasizes that there must no separation of being, thought and action. For knowing who we are governs what we think and what we think determines how we act.