

***“Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy —
The Great Transition, The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace — Part 23
Blessings Untold for the Ephesians But As Always, Grace Rules - Part 7”***

Ephesians 5 — Walking by the Spirit Is the Key to Godly Living

Review: Paul’s Testimony to the Ephesians, Chapter 4 — Experiencing the Full Redemption in Christ Jesus!

- ***Paul’s Testimony to the Ephesians — The Seven Dimensions of the Keeping of the Unity of the Spirit, Verses 3-6***
- ***Paul’s Testimony to the Ephesians — The Full Measure of Grace Given to Believers through the Resurrected Christ, Verses 7-11***
- ***Paul’s Testimony to the Ephesians — The Perfecting of the Saints and Its Goal, The Unity of the Faith, Verses 12-16***
- ***Today’s Outline: Paul’s Testimony to the Ephesians — The New Man and the Very Practical Difference It Makes, Verses 17-24***
- ***Paul’s Testimony to the Ephesians — The Seven Dimensions of the Keeping of the Unity of the Spirit, Verses 3-6***
 - ***With all this wonderful teaching if chapters 1-3 well in mind I trust, Paul launches now into the more practical part of his letter, chapters 4-6. As the “prisoner of the Lord”, he now exhorts us all:***

Eph. 4:1-6

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
4 ***There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;***
5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

- ***Verse 3 - “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”: To be diligent and fully engaged in “keeping” (carefully watching to protect) that unity under the control of “peace”, already established! Amen. By a gracious enabling of God through the Spirit***

we may do this well indeed. Next we see the foundations of what God has supplied:

- **Seven unities of the Spirit identified here and all already our possession. This is so important to see. There are unities where formerly there were two, but now one. The Great Transition has ended and now all are Gentiles from God's perspective. There are seven dimensions to this great Unity.**

These “unities” are to be KEPT, not to be PRODUCED somehow! Many, many commentaries to astray here missing the most important truths of grace altogether in the process. These have already been established. They are our reality and are fundamental for us to comprehend fully. They are to be respected and protected, kept, as the apostle writes here. What are those Seven Dimensions of his abundant working according to grace?

- **There is One Body: Not two bodies of believers, but only one.**
 - **There is One Spirit: Not one in reference to Israel and the Jews with signs and wonders but only one.**
 - **There is One Hope of our calling: Not two, one an earthly and prophesied inheritance and another a heavenly but kept secret, but only one.**
 - **There is One Lord: Not one Lord for the believing Jews, and another for believing Gentiles, but only one.**
 - **There is One Faith: Not one mingled with works-obedience as required by the Law and another free from the Law, but only one by grace through faith alone, independent of all works of law.**
 - **There is One Baptism: Not by water and with the [Pentecostal] Spirit but by the Spirit only. This is real and effectual baptism, not one that was only “symbolic”.**
 - **There is One God and Father of All: The same God is Father of all, whatever one's status and heritage.**
- **Paul's Testimony to the Ephesians — The Full Measure of Grace Given to Believers through the Resurrected Christ, Verses 7-11**
 - **Grace is central and its fullness has consequences:**

Eph. 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. . . and so “gifts” are given to all

- *The gifts then still given and effective (note that many transitional gifts had already been discontinued). Even some of these would soon pass away, for example, apostle and prophet. But some would continue as we know they have, namely, evangelists, pastors and teachers.*
- ***Paul's Testimony to the Ephesians – The Perfecting of the Saints and Its Goal, The Unity of the Faith, Verses 12-16***
 - *Now, as we go further here, we shall see that there is no end in sight for this ongoing ministry in the Body of Christ throughout this dispensation of the grace of God. God's goal is our maturing, our "perfection", and his empowering in each of us is oriented to that growth with its desired outcome. If only we would all take it to heart by faith and enjoy his great working always.*

Eph. 4:11-13, 15-16

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

...

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

- *So, God's goal in ministering the grace gifts during this dispensation is to mature the saints in this now revealed grace-focused administration, verses 12-16.*

Eph. 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Grace was given to Paul (see chapter 3 for that) and it is now given to us through the ministry of himself to others and from them to us.

Paul is teaching here that only if the grace “gifts” are properly administered may they properly know and fulfill God’s plan for this dispensation. “Speaking the truth in love ...” is how that revelation of God through Paul is to be communicated. This includes all members of the Body, not only those with those gifts. For the essence of the Head-Body relationship, verses 16, is that as the head of the Body, Christ provides the love that is then multiplied through every member, one to another. The analogy is a deep and transforming one, he says, as the knowledge of God’s working in this manner today is needed to fulfill his purpose for us. So the power of transformation is therefore in the word of this grace. Have we learned that or are we only just beginning??

- ***Paul’s Testimony to the Ephesians — The New Man and the Very Practical Difference It Makes, Verses 17-24***
 - ***Now the apostle reminds his reader of the way it was before for them and how it still is for so many unbelieving Gentiles (or Jew, for that matter, since there is no difference between them in the mind of God today), verses 17-19***

Eph. 4:17-18

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart ...

- ***Knowing what one has been delivered from is so central to knowing the wealth of his grace towards us in Christ Jesus. So much here to ponder, as the apostle opens our minds to the great gulf that separates the believer and the unbeliever.***
- ***Well, he is not finished, for now a new and powerfully descriptive term is introduced, the “New Man” with the very practical difference this makes, verses 20-24:***

Eph. 4:20-24

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye [have] put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye [have] put on the new man, which after God is [was]created in righteousness and true holiness.

- ***So we see that membership in the Body of Christ changes everything. Full rights and privileges are already granted to the believer in Christ Jesus and now the opportunity to grow and mature under the principle of grace. The restrictions and demands of the Law are over. Even righteousness and holiness are part of the gift of God. We are free indeed from the bondage to the Law, and then of course, to sin, praise God!***

Eph. 4:25-32

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

- ***This is one of the most wonderful overviews of the life of the believer under grace that may be found anywhere. Note well how grace makes the difference as the apostle writes here:***
 - ***We are mutual members of one another in the Body so speak truth ... don't give into the devil's desires. He wants to thwart that truth and its propagation no matter what.***
 - ***Don't steal but work hard and give to one another ...***
 - ***Minister grace through edifying words of grace, always!***
 - ***Don't grieve the Spirit because we are sealed unto the day of redemption***
 - ***Let all evil speaking be put away and kindness and gentleness take their place***
 - ***Why, because God, for Christ's sake, has already forgiven you. How different this is from what Christ taught during his***

earthly ministry where forgiveness of others was a precondition for his forgiveness. It is so very different today. This is so very practical right? Praise God and amen!

Today: Ephesians 5 — Walking by the Spirit Is the Key to Godly Living:

- ***In our study today we will learn what Paul the apostle of the Gentiles reveals in chapter 5 of this great letter to the Ephesians concerning our current circumstances under which we are living today with the fullness of God's wonderful grace a reality. There are three aspects to our teaching today:***
 - ***It Is Our Privilege to Redeem the Time for the Days are Evil, Verses 1-16 — Things are not really as they might seem! We are surrounded by the ungodly and the difference between how they are living and how we should be living is stark. There can be no mixing of the light and the dark here. Full separation is the order of the day.***
 - ***The Walk of the Believer Is Enabled by the Spirit, Verses 17-20 — Our walk therefore needs an entirely different empowering and that is supplied only by the Spirit according to which we must walk. We must stop being dominated by the flesh and its "drunkenness", as it were, and must start to live in fully in the spirit.***
 - ***Membership in the Church Which Is His Body Promotes Submission, Verses 21-33 — Finally, the whole structure of our living is to be re-oriented according to God's ordained hierarchy, whether in marriage, regarding the family, or in our relationships outside the family. Walking by the Spirit with His Fullness is the Key to Godly Living, as we shall see. Marriage and that relationship in Christ is so much more that it might seem to be as we shall see today. It is all part of the sacred secret, Paul writes, and that is all about Christ and the church which is His Body.***

Ephesians 5 Walking by the Spirit as the Key to Godly Living — An Introduction:

I. It Is Our Privilege to Redeem the Time for the Days are Evil, Verses 1-16:

[READ] Eph. 5:1-7

1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

- ***What an exhortation: Be ye imitators of God! God has forgiven us for Christ's sake. Therefore we ought to be similarly forgiving one another. If we did so our lives would be transformed. This is a gracious exhortation indeed since it is based entirely on what has already been gifted freely to us on the basis of the finished work of our Lord Jesus.***
- ***So the argument is this simple, because of what he has accomplished and the free gift of grace, live as he desires! It is that simple AND that powerful as an exhortation. Will we receive it?***

[READ] Eph. 5:8-13

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit [light] is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

- ***This is about the unsaved and their lifestyle. We are not to share with them in any of it for it is evil. There is a profound simplicity to all of this, isn't there? The exhortation is very simple: It is black and white — do not try to mix them. They have nothing in common at all.***
- ***But more, even speaking of them is (or should be) shameful. This is a teaching that demands much consideration in our "see and hear all" media-dominated world. Why might the apostle have written this? Could it not be perhaps that in the constant focus the media***

demands our minds become accustomed to the depths of evil this world offers. If so, then the depths of glory and grace found in God's word are the less known. That would be simple common sense. Right?

[READ] Eph. 5:14-16

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

- *“Sleepeth” == “to be distracted”. “Arise from the dead” is better translated “arise out from among the dead ones [that is, the unsaved]”. This is a present tense, so “begin arising” might be equivalent. Remember those great verses in 1 Thess. 5 “...who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him”?*
- *This separation principle is normative therefore.*
- *He goes on to state the principle is these glorious words: “Buying up the opportunities because the days are evil, that is, arranged by the evil one”. The thought is incomplete without the explanation provided in the next verses regarding the filling to overflowing by the Holy Spirit of God. The linking is in the words of verse 17, “not unwise”, that connect so perfectly with the the words “but as wise” in verse 15.*

II. The Walk of the Believer Is Enabled by the Spirit, Verses 17-20:

[READ] Eph. 5:17-20

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

- *Verse 18 is the next part of the exhortation, to stop one activity and to begin starting another. We are to stop becoming drunken with wine (a present imperative) and to begin being filled with he Spirit.*
- *He goes on in the exhortation with additional action verbs for speaking, singing, making melody, and giving of thanks. So there*

are four aspects of this “filling” listed here, all internal, individual and personal.

- ***But it immediately becomes more than internal with the next verses where the apostle focuses specifically on the marriage bond:***

III. Membership in the Church Which Is His Body Promotes Submission, Verses 21-33:

[READ] Eph. 5:21-24

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

[READ] Eph. 5:25-33

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence *her* husband.

- ***Submission in general now becomes very practical as Paul outlines the operational principle of grace-forgiveness between marriage partners. The teaching here revolves around a theme of critical importance to the apostle, that of the hierarchy of God established in the creation at the beginning and maintained as a central focus of God’s work down through time in every dispensational framework. Why is this so important to Paul? Because it is at the heart of his working as contrasted with satan’s. From the beginning satan sought to rebel against God’s authority regarding this critical issue.***

- ***At the beginning satan sought to deny and defy his position before his creator. So the divine hierarchy was his enemy from the beginning. And it continues to be so today and always.***
- ***Husbands and wives have been placed in a relationship by Almighty God and satan seeks to destroy that relationship. Wives should submit to their husbands as unto the Lord and husbands are to live their wives as Christ loved the church. Verse 33 summarizes it using different language: “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband”.***
- ***Ah, the mystery of it all. Even flesh and bones are mentioned here as speaking to the profound bond between the members of the Body and their head, even Christ himself.***

Conclusions and Application:

- ***Amen! Enjoy the Lord all, and the eternal riches of his grace already available now. May he be seen in glory through the church which is his body. May our marriages and families and relationships outside these reflect all that has been accomplished through his glorious grace. Amen.***