

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
EPHESIANS, PT. 8 – WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD (EPH 4:1-16)
FEBRUARY 25TH, 2018 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. Introduction

- A. Ephesians chapter 4 marks the turning point of the book. Whereas the first three chapters deal with spiritual truths of our relationship with Jesus, chapter 4-6 deal primarily with the practical aspects of living in those spiritual truths.
- B. At the end of Chapter 3 Paul prays for the saints that we would come to fullness in the love of God. Here in Chapter 4 Paul begins to show us what living in the fullness of love looks like.
- C. This delineation speaks to a central truth of the gospel and Christianity as a whole. Christianity is not solely a personal vertical relationship. It is a vertical relationship with horizontal implications. Our Christianity should fully influence and impact our relationships with one another.
- D. In this portion of Ephesians, Paul covers several key themes including: Unity in the body of Christ, gifts of God's grace, five-fold ministry, maturity in love, and growth of the body.

II. Walking Worthy of the Lord

Ephesians 4:1-6 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were 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.

- A. The prisoner of the Lord
- B. Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called
 - 1. Lowliness (humility)
 - 2. Gentleness (meekness)
 - 3. Longsuffering (patience)
 - 4. Bearing with one another in love
 - 5. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (being diligent)
- C. Unity of the Spirit
 - 1. One body, one Spirit
 - 2. One hope of our calling
 - 3. One Lord, one faith, one baptism
 - 4. One God – the Father of all, who is above all, through all and in all

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III. Grace to Each One

Ephesians 4:7-11 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." 9 (Now this, "HE ASCENDED"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

- A. Gifts of grace are given to each one as Christ decided to give it
- B. When He ascended He led captivity and gave gifts to men (Psalm 68:18)
- C. He also descended to the lower parts of the earth (1 Pe 3:19)
- D. He ascended and now has authority over all things
- E. Some of the gifts He gave to men are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers(shepherds)

IV. Maturity in Love

Ephesians 4:12-16 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- A. For the equipping of the saints for the works of ministry
- B. For the edifying of the body of Christ
- C. Until we come to the unity of the faith and unity in the knowledge of Jesus
- D. Until we are mature and walking in the fullness of Christ
- E. That we should no longer be children, deceived by false doctrines
- F. By speaking the truth in love we grow up into the fullness of Christ
- G. The whole body is connected to Jesus, who is the head of the body
- H. The whole body is connected to each other by Jesus
- I. The whole body is to offer a supply, doing its share which ultimately causes the body to grow so that it may be built up in love