

EPHESIANS 4b THE NEW LIFE

The first section of chapter four ended with this beautiful-long sentence. From **V11** –

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 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.”

SO, WITH MATURITY, UNITY AND WITH CHRIST AS OUR HEAD THEREFORE...

Ephesians 4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should **no longer** walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility (**Vanity**) of their mind, (**Smith – IE, empty headed**)

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

- It is sad to me when I hear an ignorant influencer speak with authority about God – when it is obvious that they DO NOT know Him.
- On April 13, 2008 – Oprah Winfrey made an impassioned televised argument that it is a mistake to declare that Jesus is the only way to God. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETel6i5ogh4
 - She will regret saying that someday when she kneels at the feet of Jesus. I only hope she has seen the light by then.
 - BTW, how do you combat darkness? TURN ON THE LIGHT!
 - IE, Get in the Word & get the Word in you.

19 who, being past feeling, (**IE, calloused to shame**) have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

- THIS is my issue with teaching our kids that the Bible is an out-of-date book. It starts with teaching "Tolerance" and its end has yet to be measured.
- It is eternally dangerous to categories God's Words as intolerant, or out-of-date...
- BUT THE Bible is NOT out-of-date... **It IS narrow** however, that cannot be denied. But if you take away the truth of the Word of God you are left with whatever feels good – DO THAT!

SWIM AGAINST THE FLOW

- Lynette and I were taught early on in our scuba diving lessons to START our dives swimming against the current. Then when you are tired the swim back will be easier... Go with the flow and you might not make it back...
- LISTEN CCSV, swim against the flow of this world... Then when you get to heaven, you will be at home! **You will have found truth... Listen...**

BE YE DIFFERENT

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man (**Old nature**) which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you **put on** the **new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

- Some of you may have come to church this morning with the same clothes you took off last night and threw on the floor, or into the hamper...
- BUT... I doubt many of you did that...
- I imagine that like me... You stood at your closet and made a decision what to "put on."
 - How many of you have "Painting clothes?" We have a volunteer who carries "Painting glasses and a painting watch!"
 - How many of you have "Workout outfits?"

- How many of you have “For work” clothes? Dress up clothes? Beach clothes? Snow clothes? Dodger game clothes? Bedtime clothes? Comfy-Cozies?
- What determines what outfit you choose? Your future behavior does!

The SAME can be said for putting on “The new man...”

So...

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.

- CCSV, we should be the best, kindest and most generous neighbors in the neighborhood! I want to be the neighbor that other neighbors tell when they travel to watch their house! That doesn't happen by being a jerk to them.
- You may never get to share the gospel with your neighbors... BUT... They are watching you – they KNOW you get up and go to church every Sunday... Share the Gospel through your kindness with them.

ALL TIME BEST VERSE FOR COUPLES & FAMILIES...

26 "BE ANGRY, AND DO NOT SIN": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

- QUESTION: Is being angry a sin?
 - Does God ever become angry?
 - A really good test for ourselves is to know WHY certain things make us angry and other things do not...
- Question: Is it easier to sin when you are angry? YES!
- Is it normal to be angry often? NO!
- Will frequent bouts of anger disqualify you from being used of God? Ask Cain... Ask Rachel... Ask Saul... Ask David.... Ask Moses.... Ask Peter.... The Lord limited all these biblical people because of their tempers.
- Have a reputation for being long tempered...
- Read “The Angry Man” by Dr. David Stoop – Lynette is grateful

that I read it. It mellowed me in the week I took to read it!

I better move on before someone gets mad...

28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

- Be the hardest worker... Make your boss look good... NEVER participate in a conspiracy... NEVER!

DON'T BE A CUSSER! BE A GRACE IMPARTER...

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

- Stop it by stop thinking it! This is a tough habit to break, but you can do it...
- Be known for graceful speech... Edify one another...

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- Think of it. The Holy Spirit is with us 24/7, listening to our words and seeing what we are thinking before we even form the words we speak...
- THE GOOD PART OF THIS – He knows how much we love Him... He understands our frustrations... He knows the enemy's tricks and will guide us away from them IF we will let Him.
- How can WE HELP? Listen...

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, **(being LOUD)** and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

SUMMARY - 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.