

“Therefore”: Or, considering where you are NOW, beloved saints at Ephesus, in contrast to where you once were when you were lost:

And, where were they? *Ephesians 1:3-14.*

Paul then prayed for the saints at Ephesus, that God would enlighten their spiritual eyes, and that He would give them the spirit of wisdom & revelation in the knowledge of Christ.

In (C2), Paul spoke of God’s grace to them in the saving of their souls, and how blessed they were to be IN the family of God.

In (C3) Paul again prayed for them, that they might know the love of Christ, which passed or was beyond knowledge.

Now as we come to (C4), Paul began with an exhortation to a VERY necessary spiritual imperative for them as a body of believers.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Considering all of the spiritual blessings of Christ that have been lavished upon you;

“I beseech/I implore and exhort you, children of God to “walk worthy” of the vocation wherewith ye are called. Walk in such a way that you are worthy of being identified and associated with the Name of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:12: “That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto His Kingdom and glory”

How are you representing yourself in the world, but especially in the church, in your spiritual vocation or in your calling as Christians?

All of us have or had earthly vocations; callings in this life in which we made our livings; where there was/is an expectation that you know what you’re doing, that you represent your employer honorably, and that you’re faithful in your earthly calling.

Are you walking worthy of your vocation/calling as a Christian?

Does your manner of life validate your profession?

What does it look like for a Christian to walk worthy of his/her calling?

(V2): Paul teaches us what “a worthy walk” that looks like?

You conduct yourself by walking/living “with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing (with) one another in love”

EVERY ONE of us (in Christ) should be lowly, not haughty or proud, but humble and poor in spirit, meek, meaning that you are one of the Lord’s “gentle ones”.

This is WHO you are to be in every facet of life; YES out in the world, but HERE in the text, Paul is speaking of how they must **conduct themselves among themselves**, in the church gathering, and among fellow believers in Christ.

Isaiah 65:25: They will ALL “feed together” and they will not hurt each other; but they will behave as if they all had the same nature!

Beloved, in Christ, we ARE ALL partakers of the divine nature; we ARE ALL ONE in Christ! We all have the same Spirit!

You don't bruise broken reeds and you don't quench smoking flax. I love 2 Timothy 2:22-26, and I know that Paul is teaching Timothy, who was an Elder at the Church @ Ephesus, but this is a good description of how we ought to conduct ourselves practically/situationally among ourselves in the church: Start from (V22):

(V24-25): "The servant of the Lord must not strive; (or be a quarrelsome person, one who is always ready to dispute, or fight); but the servant of the Lord must be gentle (or mild mannered and kind), unto ALL; apt to teach, and patient, or long-spirited! In meekness, instructing those that oppose themselves!"

Again, this Paul's instruction to Timothy as an elder in the church! But isn't this how each of us ought to be children of God? Among ourselves?

Lastly in (V2), I love that Paul doesn't just say "Forbearing one another"; because if he did, it would simply mean "putting up with one another" or to tolerating them. It's one thing to put up with or tolerate someone, it's VERY different to forbear with them "in love".

Like a good "Under-Shepherd", Paul discerned that contentions might arise in the church with all the different types of people gathered together in one place.

I can tell you this is in my heart, (even more so now with so many more souls gathering) that we would, as a church, BE ONE in Spirit, and that there would be no divisions, sin, or internal strifes in any of our hearts one toward another. That we would believe and worship with one another as written in (V2), and so (V3):

"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"

This is what we are ALL CALLED TO in the gathering of the saints, in the church! This is spoken in the present ~ active voice meaning we should continually and earnestly pursuing peace and unity in our gathering!

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God"

Each one of us (saints of God) are to "Make every effort" to "KEEP" or GUARD the unity or ONENESS of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Acts 2:44-47, 4:32, Romans 14:17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:10-11, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Colossians 3:12-16

Closing thoughts:

Is there any internal strife in our midst? Not that I know of: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable...."

There is so much fighting and strife in the world, but it ought not so to be so in the church, in the Kingdom of Christ.