

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
Lesson 13
Chapter 4:01-6, The Study
IV - "The Church As The New Mankind" P-1
A. The Coordination of the Church

J. Deering, AncientPath.net

REVIEW

Our Condensed Outline to date:

GOD'S SPECIAL SECRET

- I. CHAPTER 1 – The Church AS The Body of Christ**
- II. CHAPTER 2 – The Church AS The Temple of Christ**
- III. CHAPTER 3 - The Church AS God's Top Secret**

First came the Promise in belief in Christ comes now through the Good News concerning that the Church is made up of Jews and all the rest of the nations on earth. Believers are now fellow heirs, fellow members of one body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus. Paul reminds the Ephesians that he was directly made an administrator, through God's grace, in beginning this new body of Christ's believers.

Paul states that it will be through this new assembly of believers that the world will become aware of the Gospel and that the authorities in heaven will now become aware of the manifold wisdom of God through the Church.

Paul goes on to remind us that God the Father is fully in-control of the world affairs and His plan for redemption, and that Paul embeds himself in intercessory prayer and encourages every

believer to do the same for their fellow believers. Every believer needs to be in prayer so that God the Father can “grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with [His] power... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith and beginning to comprehend the breadth, length width, and depth of God’s love and grace.”

He also tells the Church members to not lose heart due to his sufferings because, like Christ’s, his sufferings are for their glory.

“To Him be the Glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus into all the generations of eternity. Amen!” [Ephesians 3:21]

THE STUDY, 4:01-6, The Introduction
IV. CHAPTER 4 – The Church As The New Mankind

"So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly" (1 Corinthians 15-47).

MacCorkle reminds us that Nothing like the Church was ever created among humankind from the first Adam of Eden until the second and last Adam of Bethlehem.ⁱ He also gives us a list:

The Church is an organism, not an organization.

Its head is in Heaven.

It is a heavenly body and not an earthly body such as Israel.

The Church is a created body composed of redeemed human beings.

The Church is not an afterthought, but it was God's best kept secret until the Death of His Son, Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and 50 days later Pentecost.

Ephesians chapter 4 leads us to consider our heavenly qualifications in terms of physical and spiritual coordination.

**THE STUDY, Ephesians 4:1
GOD'S SPECIAL SECRET**

- I. CHAPTER 1 – The Church AS The Body of Christ**
- II. CHAPTER 2 – The Church AS The Temple of Christ**
- III. CHAPTER 3 - The Church AS God's Top Secret**
- IV. CHAPTER 4 – The Church AS The New Mankind**
 - A. The Coordination of the Church 4:1-6**
 - 1. The Problem of a Godly Walk 4:1**

4:1 [Mac]

I

therefore, the **prisoner** in the Lord,
 urge **you**
 to live **your life**
 in a manner **worthy of the calling**
 with which **you were called,**

4:1 [NASB]

I,

therefore,
the prisoner of the Lord,
entreat you
to walk
in a manner worthy of the calling
with which you have been called,

COMMENTARY

Our outline is introduced by a title: "The Problem of a Godly Walk." So often Christians consider themselves unworthy of their calling of God to belief. This is often brought on by a misunderstanding of their relationship to Jesus Christ. Our lives have been so programmed by bad church (small letters) theology. All around is a general teaching that bases itself upon the Old Testament covenantal laws – laws that God established with the physical generations of Abraham through Moses and the then newly formed nation of Israel. Over the centuries those laws mistakenly became political in nature and

taught through early (post Jesus) Christianity as wrongly binding upon believers.

Years ago, my wife and I pastored a small bible church in New Jersey. While we were new there, we made it our mission to get to know each family of the church. There was one husband and wife, Bob and Marge, who were being distanced by most of the congregation. We asked around but could not find a decent answer to just why these two were so unpopular. We eventually began to get to know them, and they invited us to dinner one evening. Bob dragged out an old big bible as we sat down to our meal and opened it up to somewhere in the middle and read out loud for several minutes. I had been led to believe that they were not saved by just about everyone I met at the church. I thought he was reading his bible to make fun of us as the pastoral family, but I made no comment. At the end of the meal, I asked them directly if they were "saved." They looked at one another and said "no." I asked, "why not?" She looked at him and he said, "we don't consider ourselves worthy of His calling." I spent the next hour or so telling them of God the Father's love for them, and what Jesus had done at the cross... forgiving each believer of all sin and sins, so we all could be one family under the Love of God. In the next few weeks Bob and Joyce became completely different people and embedded themselves in every aspect of our church and worship. They have both gone home to be with Jesus and His Father (Our Father) and they now serve Him in eternity for eternity as members of "The Body of Christ," the Church Universal.

Jesus clearly taught that those covenantal laws, that were so problematical for the Hebrew people (Jews), were no longer in effect for righteousness, justification, or forgiveness, upon His death and resurrection. The "dividing wall" between Jew and Gentile has been done away with. That means that **the Law** no longer determines your relationship to Almighty God. The Law now stands as reminders of who God is and what He is like as a holy God. The Law now no longer divides mankind from Almighty God. If you are without a saving relationship to Jesus, you are condemned. But you still have the opportunity to become "saved," but until one does so... they are still condemned.

With faith in Jesus comes absolute forgiveness of all sin and sins, along with adoption into the very family of Almighty God and the hope of life ever after in that family relationship with God, His Son, and His Holy Spirit.

So now with this new relationship to God, we have no need to feel unworthy. Instead, we need to consider:

In Chapters 1-3 we have learned the "What You Have In Christ" and the "Why Your Have It In-Christ" parts of the book of Ephesians. Now in Chapters 4-6 we enter into the "How Your Respond In-Christ."

We learned in Chapter 3 that Paul considered himself to be a "Prisoner of Jesus Christ." This was due to his personal encounter with the risen Christ and His calling Paul into Christian service.

Right away Paul begins with a plea that, as a result of the gift of every spiritual blessing and the revelation of the Mystery of The Body of Christ, our walk In-Christ should **reflect** the Glory of God in Christ – as a **response** to what He has done for us – not as rules and regulations to follow.

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light (Colossians 1:12).

Once saved we have been made worthy, and the above verse is addressed to us and we are addressed as those who can walk worthily. We have been **called** as worthy... thus we **are** worthy. Now it is up to us to **walk** worthy. Not to attain points! But to demonstrate our love for what the Father, Son, and Spirit have done for us through their love for us.

THE STUDY – Ephesians 4:2 GOD’S SPECIAL SECRET

IV. CHAPTER 4 – The Church AS The New Mankind

A. The Coordination of the Church 4:1-6

1. The Problem of a Godly Walk 4:1
2. **The Problem of a Godly Love 4:2**

4:2 [Mac]

with all possible humility of
mind and **gentleness**,
with stretched out spirit,
putting up
with another
in godly love.

(4:2) [NASB]

And in **what manner** shall we walk?

With **All Humility** - One to Another In Love (**agape**)

With **All Gentleness** - One to Another In Love

With **All Patience** - One to Another In Love

With All Forbearance - One to Another In Love

Paul’s list of “*The Fruit of the Spirit*,” (Galatians 5:22-23),

***Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control***

teaches us how we should act towards all of the world around us, not just with believers, at church, but... with all of the world around us (of course it wouldn’t hurt is we behaved this way with our fellow believers in our local church as well!! Especially in our congregational business meetings).

Again, in simple terms: We are to: Walk worthy of our calling. You see, we are called by God to win others to Christ Jesus, building up His church (the temple image) and to treat each other like Godly Children, and be inviting in nature to win others into belief through faith. That is your calling.

**THE STUDY – Ephesians 4:3
GOD’S SPECIAL SECRET**

IV. CHAPTER 4 – The Church AS The New Mankind

A. The Coordination of the Church 4:1-6

1. The Problem of a Godly Walk 4:1
2. The Problem of a Godly Love 4:2
3. **The Problem of a Unity of the Spirit 4:3**

And **why** should **we** walk in **this manner**?

4:3 [Mac]

Be diligent

to preserve

the oneness of the Spirit

in the bond that consists of peace.

4:3 [NASB]

being diligent

to preserve

the unity

of the **Spirit**

in the bond of peace.

Because... We need to be Diligent, zealous, eager, and take pains to, make every effort to PRESERVE the UNITY of THE SPIRIT, Inside the BOND(S) OF PEACE (The Peace of God which surpasses all understanding).

Within the God Head there is **ABSOLUTE UNITY** and **ABSOLUTE LOVE**. We are to REFLECT that Unity and Love - as we are His Ambassadors, **those who represent** Almighty God in this broken world (and to the Heavens).

Whether we WANT TO, FEEL LIKE IT, DESIRE IT, or not. The FACT is that we **represent Him** and what the world and heavenlies see in us - is what they see as a reflection of Him.

**THE STUDY – Ephesians 4:4-6
GOD’S SPECIAL SECRET**

IV. CHAPTER 4 – The Church AS The New Mankind

A. The Coordination of the Church 4:1-6

1. The Problem of a Godly Walk 4:1
2. The Problem of a Godly Love 4:2
3. The Problem of a Unity of the Spirit 4:3
4. **The Provisions for Coordination 4:4-6, P-1/3**

4:4 [Mac]

There is

one Body and

one Spirit,

just as **you were all called** with the

one hope that belongs to **your calling;**

4:4 [NASB]

There is

one body and

one Spirit,

just as also you were called in

one hope of your calling;

Paul goes on to emphasize the importance of the reflection in us of His ONENESS.

There is ONE BODY - "THE BODY OF CHRIST" The "Called-Out Ones."

There is ONE SPIRIT - The HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD Who Provides Daily Living Power to each and every on of His Children.

There is ONE HOPE - If your were not **CALLED OF GOD** What Hope would there be?

The Provisions for Coordination 4:4-6, P-2/3

**4:5 [Mac]
one Lord,
one faith,
one baptism,**

**4:5 [NASB]
one Lord,
one faith,
one baptism,**

(4:5)

There is ONE LORD - ONLY ONE GOD who is **Lord** of His Called-Out People: Jesus Christ

There is ONE FAITH - The Only Faith is the one that was **given as a gift** to those who have been Called-Out. Faith cannot be found anywhere else.

There is ONE BAPTISM - There is only **ONE GOD** who **Indwells and SEALS** every one of His Children with His Complete Spiritual Baptism (no water here!).

The Provisions for Coordination 4:4-6, P-3/3

4:6 [Mac]

**one God and Father of all,
Who is
over all and
through all and
in all.**

4:6 [NASB]

There is **ONE God and FATHER of ALL**
And He is Over All
And He is Through ALL
And He is IN ALL.

He is the Center of Oneness, and WE are His Ambassadors. It then behooves us to be with, act with, work with, fellowship with, worship with... each other in the bonds of love, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, the Love and Grace of God the Father, and the great sacrifice and reward of God the Son Jesus.

**HOMEWORK:
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - 4:1-6**

4:1-6 The Church AS The New Mankind, P-1

Look at the question and ignore the answer. Then study the answer!

4:1 [Mac]

I

therefore, the **prisoner** in the Lord,
urge **you**
to live **your life**
in a manner **worthy of the calling**
with which **you were called,**

Verse 1 carries with it MacCorkle's title: The Problem of a Godly Walk. What can a believer do to encourage themselves and other believers around them to walk in their lives in a more Godly way. What specific parts of the Gospel will be of value?

Paul says it right there in the verse. Live your life in a manner WORTHY of God's calling of you. As I like to say, "The God who created the universe chose some humans (He calls all) to become His "High Priest" adopted family members. All of heaven is awaiting each person who believes in God's Son's voluntary substitutionary sacrifice. No greater life could be sought after - so, live in a manner Worthy of that extremely high calling.

4:2 [Mac]
with all possible humility of
 mind and **gentleness,**
with stretched out spirit,
putting up
with another
in godly love.

What are the FIVE Godly traits that are required of the believer according to Jesus' revelation to Paul?

First on the list is to live a life centered on other believers **IN ALL POSSIBLE HUMILITY OF YOUR MIND.**

Second, is to live a life centered on other believers **IN ALL POSSIBLE HUMILITY OF GENTLENESS.**

Third, is to live a life centered on other believers **IS TO DO 1 & 2 WITH A STRETCHED OUT SPIRIT... DEFINED AS:**

Fourth, **PUTTING UP WITH EACH OTHER,** and

Fifth, **DOING 1, 2, 3, 4, IN GODLY LOVE (FOR EACH OTHER).**

There is no place for NOT PUTTING UP WITH EACH OTHER, in all these situations, and doing so IN GODLY LOVE FOR EACH OTHER!

4:3 [Mac]**Be diligent****to preserve****the oneness of the Spirit****in the bond that consists of peace.**

As Paul continues to define living your life in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called (4:1), what is Paul's focus in this verse?

He continues to put much stress upon how we act toward each other. He is stressing the importance of living according to the revealed love of God that has been shed upon you. With the enormous honor that has been placed upon you, through the substitutionary sacrifice (your substitute) of God's own son, that **YOU RETURN THAT HONOR TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH LIVING ACCORDING TO HIS REQUIREMENTS.** Living a life that is **DILIGENT TO PRESERVE THE ONENESS OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND THAT CONSISTS OF PEACE.**

4:4 [Mac]

There is

one Body and**one Spirit,**just as **you were all called** with the**one hope** that belongs to **your calling;**

What is Paul's focus in these verses?

As he wraps up this set of verses, here in verse 4 he begins to pull together the essential element - **THE ONE HOPE** that belongs to YOUR CALLING. God called you - from before the foundation of the world. In that calling, because you believed in Him and His revelation concerning His Son and His Holy Spirit, you were given... the ONE HOPE. You were told in His Word that you were now adopted into His heavenly family, and that you

would join with Him for all of eternity. That is a HOPE WORTH HOPING. Every Christian, whether you like them, like how they act, or like what they say... has that same hope because God has called them to the same HOPE. Therefore, we are to remember that WE All, are **ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, with ONE HOPE, TOGETHER IN HIM. But it doesn't stop there...**

4:5 [Mac]

**one Lord,
 one faith,
 one baptism,**

4:6 [Mac]

**one God and Father of all,
 Who is
 over all and
 through all and
 in all.**

That is why we must all focus on our UNITY OF FAITH and CALLING - IN GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Book of Ephesians Bible Study materials on this website are a ministry of AncientPath.net and are made available here free and may be copied for use in Bible study groups, in limited numbers, providing that no charge is made for them. Items that appear as copyrighted materials that are not of our authorship are not to be copied without the express permission of the original copyright holders. Every effort has been made to give proper footnote credit for items that are quoted. No further distribution or use of these materials is allowable under U.S. or International Copyright Law without the express permission of AncientPath.net.

The Writings of Douglas B. MacCorkle

Dr. MacCorkle's Books and Study materials on this website are made available here free, through the generosity of Judith and Ray Naugle, and may be copied for use in Bible study groups, in limited numbers, providing that no charge is made for them. No further distribution or use of these materials is allowable under U.S. or International Copyright Law without express permission.

The Outline and Expanded Translation Text presented in this study is from Dr. MacCorkle's God's Special Secret - The Case Paul Argues in the Epistle to the Ephesians, Copyright 1993 by Douglas B. MacCorkle. Printed and bound in the United States of America. Published by the not-for-profit MacCorkle bible Ministries, Inc. Books, P.O. Box 320909, Cocoa Beach, Fl. 32932-0909.

J. Deering - AncientPath.net © 2008-2025 All rights reserved.

Jeremiah 18:15

"Don't stumble from the Ancient Path."

2025-01-13 updated

ⁱ MacCorkle, Douglas, God's Special Secret, MBM Books, Cocoa Beach, Florida 1993, p. 149