

This week we are reading and studying Ephesians 4: 8-32. When you read the scriptures, go back and read verses 1-7 also, to refresh your memory. We want to keep scripture in context. Context is always king. Pray and ask God to help you see all he has for you today, as you study his word. Then ask him how he would have you apply it, to your walk of faith.

**In Ephesians 1, we saw the joy of faithfulness and the blessings that God lavished by grace on all who are his.**

**In Ephesians 2, we saw our salvation is by God's grace alone and that the cornerstone of the church is Christ.**

**In Ephesians 3, we saw the mystery of God being revealed. That mystery is all believers are members of the same body and partakers of the promise, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.**

1. In Eph. 4:8, Paul quotes Ps.68:18, a victory hymn composed by David to celebrate God's care for his people.  
In verses 9-10, Paul is leading in a celebration of the victory of Christ over sin, death, hell and the grave. **What do you learn about our victory in 1 Cor. 15:55-57, 2 Cor. 3:6 and Rev. 1:17-18?**

**1 Cor. 15:55-57** *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**2 Cor.3:6** *who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

**Rev. 1:17-18** *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.*

2. If you are a child of God, what praise do you have for him, for the victory that is already yours?
3. Paul returns to his discussion of gifts in Eph. 4:11. He specifically names some of those who are given certain gifts. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds.  
The positions of an apostle and prophet were to lay the foundation of the church. We saw this in Eph. 2:20.  
The position of an evangelist was to preach and explain the good news of salvation, in Jesus Christ, to those who have not yet believed. He is one who proclaims salvation, by grace through faith in the Son of God, to those who have not heard.  
The positions of a shepherd and teacher were to care for, protect and lead God's flock. We call him a pastor or teacher.  
**Are you easily led by those who desire to see you grow in grace?**
4. **What were the Ephesian believers to do; with the gift they had been given?**

**4. (cont) What is the two-fold reason for these gifts? Vs.12**

(The word "saint" in the Greek is *Hagios, most holy thing*. This is how God views those who are his, those who have placed their faith and trust in Christ, for salvation.)

5. **Highlight the text in verse 13, stating the goals we, as the body of Christ, are to strive for. Make a list of what you see.**
6. **Maturity of the church is to be the goal of all those who lead the body of Christ. What are some of the ways listed, in verses 14- 15, that reveal our level of Christian maturity?**
7. **What is the ultimate benefit, when the body of Christ is working together? Vs. 16**
8. **When we are using the gifts given us, to do the work God has ordained for us to do, and we are doing it all with a heart filled with gratitude, for all Christ has done for us, then what we will experience? Vs. 16**
9. **Is this your experience when dealing with your brothers and sisters in Christ?**
10. **Is this what others experience, when dealing with you?**
11. **How will the world know we are followers of Christ?**

Jesus made this very clear when he said to his disciples in John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*
12. **What are some of the distinguishing characteristics of Christ's love for us?**
13. **How clearly are others seeing these qualities in you?**
14. **In Eph. 4:17-32, Paul gives us a very clear view of what our new life should and should not consist of. Let's make a list for a comparison.**

**The old Man**, before salvation                      **The New Man**, forgiven and living for Christ
15. **Looking back at the list of characteristics of the old man, briefly state what it means to walk as a Gentile?** Remember there were only two classes of people at that time. There were God's people, the Jews (*although they did not follow as they should, they were still God's chosen people by His will*) and Gentiles.
16. **Look at the list and describe, in your own words, "the old man".**

**17. What is the distinguishing mark of “the new man”? vs. 24**

*Gal.2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me*

**18. Even though salvation is an instant event, what do you see in the following verse concerning the work of the Holy Spirit on our behalf?**

**Col.3:8-10** *But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9Do not lie to one another; seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

*This is an important truth for us to understand. If we do not, we can be defeated by the devil, if we listen to him and give into to our old ways. He will come and try to convince us, that we were never saved or we would not sin. You might want to read Romans 6-7. Being a new man in Christ does not eliminate sin.*

**19. How many of your sins did Jesus die for on the cross?**

You had not committed any sins when Christ died...you were not even born.

Romans 6:10 *For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.*

**20. Now go back and define the words, from Eph. 4:31, in order to have a more clear understanding, of exactly what we are to put away, so that we will not grieve the Holy Spirit. bitterness, rage (wrath- kjv), anger, brawling (clamor-kjv), slander (evil speaking- kjv), malice**

**21. The last thing I want you to consider is “forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you”.**

**When did he forgive you? Romans 5:8** *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**At what cost did he forgive you? Romans 8:32** *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

**22. As a child of God, does your life reflect the change that God has begun in your heart?**