

Study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

- Chapter 1 (Verse by Verse Explanation)

At the end of the first chapter of Ephesians, Paul leads us to reflect on the greatness of God's power, which is manifested in the resurrection and exaltation of Christ. He describes the supremacy of Jesus over all things, not only as Lord of creation, but also as head of the Church. This power, which operated in Christ, is also made available to believers, enabling us to live in its fullness. Paul challenges us to understand the scope and depth of this power, showing that, by being in Christ, we are participants in a heavenly and transforming reality.

Ephesians 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus and faithful in Christ Jesus.

Explanation: Paul begins his letter by asserting his apostolic authority, saying that he has been called by God to be an apostle of Jesus Christ. The word "apostle" implies being sent, and Paul recognizes that his mission is given by the will of God. He is addressing the Christians in Ephesus, the "saints," that is, those who have been set apart for God and live in Christ, and who are faithful to the message of the gospel.

Theological evidence: Paul's statement about being an apostle by God's will reflects the doctrine of God's sovereignty over the lives of His servants. God calls and sends whomever He wills, as we see in passages such as Acts 9, where Paul is called to his mission. The Christian's identity as "holy" and "faithful" is a God-given identity based on Christ.

Reflection: As Christians, we are called to be holy and faithful, living according to God's will. The letter begins with a reminder of our identity in Christ: set apart for Him, called to fulfill God's purpose in our lives.

Ephesians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Explanation: Paul begins his greeting with a blessing of grace and peace, which are central blessings in the Christian life. Grace is God's unmerited favor, and peace is the reconciliation we have with God through Christ. He emphasizes that these blessings come from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, emphasizing their intimate relationship with the Trinity.

Theological evidence: Grace and peace are closely linked in Pauline theology. Grace is the basis of our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9), and as a result we have peace with God (Romans 5:1). Peace is one of the chief blessings of the gospel, for Jesus destroyed the enmity between men and God through His work on the cross (Ephesians 2:14).

Reflection: The peace we receive in Christ is more than the absence of conflict; it is the assurance of our reconciliation with God. And this peace comes by grace—not something we can earn, but something that is freely given to us by God.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

Explanation: Paul begins by praising God by extolling Him as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. He introduces us to the idea of blessings "in the heavenly places," which implies spiritual blessings, not necessarily material or earthly ones.

Theological evidence: "Spiritual blessings" refer to all that we receive from God in Christ: salvation, forgiveness, justification, the Holy Spirit, divine sonship, adoption as children of God (Romans 8:15). The "heavenly places" are not just a place, but a spiritual realm where God's blessings are realized through Christ.

Reflection: In Christ, God has given us infinite spiritual riches. We do not need to look for spiritual blessings anywhere else, for all the blessings we need are in Christ. We can rest and live in His fullness.

Ephesians 1:4

According as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love.

Explanation: Paul teaches us that we were chosen by God "in Christ" before the foundation of the world. God did not choose us based on our merits, but by His grace. The purpose of this choice is that we be "holy and blameless," that is, set apart for Him and without blame, living in love.

Theological evidence: The doctrine of election is central to Christian theology, especially in passages such as Romans 8:29-30 and Ephesians 1:4. Election in Christ indicates that God chose us in Christ, before the creation of the world, to be

conformed to the image of His Son. Holiness is a mark of the Christian life (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Reflection: The fact that we were chosen by God before the foundation of the world reminds us of His sovereignty and the deep love He has for us. Our purpose is to live in a way that honors this calling, seeking to be holy and blameless before Him.

Ephesians 1:5

And he predestined us unto adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will.

Explanation: Paul reveals to us that we have been "predestined" to be "adopted children" through Jesus Christ. This means that God, in His sovereign will, has chosen us to be part of His family, based on the redemptive work of Christ. "Adoption" involves becoming members of God's family, with all the rights and privileges of children.

Theological evidence: Predestination and adoption are central themes in Ephesians 1:5-6 and throughout Scripture. Adoption is a gracious act of God that takes us out of slavery to sin and brings us into His family (Romans 8:15, 23). Predestination is connected with God's plan to choose people for salvation from before the foundation of the world.

Reflection: Adoption is one of the greatest privileges we have in Christ. We are beloved children of God, and this should transform our identity and our behavior. The security of being a child of God gives us a new perspective on life and calls us to live in accordance with His love.

Ephesians 1:6

To the praise of the glory of his grace, which he freely gave us in the Beloved.

Explanation: Paul emphasizes that all this is to the "praise of the glory of His grace." That is, God acts in this way so that His grace may be recognized and exalted. "Grace" is the undeserved favor that God grants us, and this gift of adoption and salvation is given to us "in the Beloved," that is, in Jesus Christ, who is the object of God's grace.

Theological evidence: God's grace is the foundation of our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9), and Jesus Christ is the supreme manifestation of that grace. Christ's work is the means by which all of God's blessings reach us, and it is in Christ that we find our salvation.

Reflection: Our salvation is a gift from God, given by His grace, and it is all for the praise of His glory. Instead of taking pride in our achievements or merits, we should recognize that all our hope and identity are based on God's grace, which is an immense act of love.

Ephesians 1:7

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Explanation: Paul explains that the redemption, or ransom, we receive comes through the blood of Jesus. "Redemption" is deliverance from sin and condemnation, and the "forgiveness of sins" is the complete forgiveness of our sins. All this happens according to "the riches of His grace," that is, it is a generous and abundant gift from God.

Theological evidence: Redemption through the blood of Christ is a fundamental concept throughout the Bible (Colossians 1:14; 1 Peter 1:18-19). Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for sin, and it is through His blood that we are forgiven. The "grace" given to us is rich and abundant, not based on our merits.

Reflection: Redemption is the heart of the gospel, and it shows us the cost of forgiveness: the blood of Jesus. We are no longer slaves to sin; we have been set free and forgiven. This understanding should lead us to a life of gratitude and worship to God.

Ephesians 1:8

Who exceedingly abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence.

Explanation: God has not only given us grace and redemption, but He has also provided us with abundant wisdom and prudence. God's wisdom and prudence guide us to live according to His will, illuminating our decisions and understanding His purposes in our lives.

Theological evidence: God's wisdom is a major theme in Scripture (James 1:5). He desires to give us understanding on how to live in accordance with His will, and this comes through the revelation of His Word and the Holy Spirit.

Reflection: In Christ, we have access to divine wisdom that can transform the way we live. We need to trust in His direction, knowing that He has perfect wisdom to guide us in every area of life.

Ephesians 1:9

Having made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself.

Explanation: Paul reveals that God has revealed to us the "mystery" of His will. This "mystery" is not something we need to discover on our own, but has been revealed to us by God. God's will is good and is based on His good pleasure, that is, His divine pleasure and purpose.

Theological evidence: The "mystery" of God in Christ is a recurring theme in Ephesians (Ephesians 3:3-6). God's will is fully revealed in Jesus, and the plan of salvation is a part of that revealed mystery. God reveals His plan to His children so that they may live according to Him.

Reflection: The fact that God has revealed His will in Christ gives us security and purpose. We are not wandering aimlessly, but we know what God wants from us and how He wants us to live.

Ephesians 1:10

To bring together in him the dispensation of the fullness of time, to gather together in Christ all things, whether in heaven or on earth.

Explanation: Paul teaches us that God's plan is to gather all things together in Christ. This plan of the "fullness of times" refers to the time when God will establish His complete Kingdom, gathering everything under the Lordship of Christ, both in heaven and on earth.

Theological evidence: The idea of gathering all things together in Christ is central to Christian eschatology (Colossians 1:20). God's plan culminates in the total

Christ's sovereignty over all creation, and the new creation will be an expression of that dominion.

Reflection: God's plan is grand and eternal. He is working to bring everything together in Christ, and as His children, we are called to live in accordance with that eternal purpose. This gives us a grand perspective and reminds us that our lives are part of God's plan.

Ephesians 1:11

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works out everything in conformity with the counsel of his will.

Explanation: Paul states that in Christ we have been made God's "inheritance." This means that in Christ we are heirs to the promises of God, which He prepared for us before the foundation of the world. The word "predestined" implies that God chose us from the beginning to be part of this inheritance, and all of this is according to His sovereign and unchanging plan.

Theological evidence: The idea of our being God's inheritance in Christ is linked to the doctrine of predestination (Romans 8:17). God, in His sovereign plan, determined from eternity that those who were in Christ would be His heirs, enjoying salvation and spiritual blessings.

This predestination is carried out according to the "purpose" and "counsel" of God's will, showing that He acts with full wisdom and control.

Reflection: The fact that we are God's inheritance in Christ gives us immense security. Nothing can separate us from God, because we have been chosen to be His children and heirs. This truth should strengthen

our faith and trust in God's promises, because He has a perfect plan for our lives.

Ephesians 1:12

That we might be to the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ.

Explanation: The purpose of our being made God's inheritance is that our lives may be to the "praise of His glory." The Christian life is not just about what we receive, but about how it glorifies God. Those who "hope in Christ" are those who have their hope fixed on the work of Jesus, and this hope is a testimony to the glory of God.

Theological evidence: The Christian life is a response to God's grace, and our existence is to be lived in worship of Him (1 Corinthians 10:31). The idea that our salvation results in praise to God's glory is a recurring message in Ephesians (Ephesians 3:21), showing that the reason for our salvation is always for God's glory.

Reflection: As Christians, our lives should be a reflection of God's glory. Our testimony, our actions, and our words should exalt Christ, because He is the reason for our hope and our salvation. We live for His glory.

Ephesians 1:13

In whom you also, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him also after that you believed, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

Explanation: Paul describes the moment of salvation as an experience in which we hear the "word of truth," which is the gospel, and then believe it. When we believe in Christ, we are "sealed" with the Holy Spirit. The seal is a symbol of guarantee, authenticity, and ownership, and the Holy Spirit is the promised seal, which means that we are God's property and He guarantees us salvation.

Theological evidence: The seal of the Holy Spirit is also mentioned in 2 Corinthians 1:22 and Ephesians 4:30. He is the guarantee that we have been purchased by Christ and belong to God. The Spirit is also a "deposit," or advance promise, of the eternal inheritance that awaits us (2 Corinthians 5:5).

Reflection: The Holy Spirit in our lives is the proof that we belong to God and that our salvation is secure. The Spirit is our guide, comforter, and promise that we will one day live eternally with God. This should fill us with peace and confidence in our Christian journey.

Ephesians 1:14

Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of that which is possessed, unto the praise of his glory.

Explanation: Paul describes the Holy Spirit as the "earnest" (a guarantee) of our inheritance, that is, He is the advance promise of the full salvation that we will receive when Christ returns. The "redemption" of God's property refers to the time when Christ will return to complete the work of salvation, bringing us into full possession of our heavenly inheritance.

Theological evidence: The concept of "pledge" is similar to the idea of guarantee in contracts, where the

The pledge serves as an assurance that the agreement will be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit is the pledge of our eternal inheritance, as we see in Romans 8:23, which speaks of the "redemption of the body," and in 2 Corinthians 5:5, which speaks of the Spirit as the "earnest" of our heavenly inheritance.

Reflection: The Holy Spirit not only guides and strengthens us in the present, but also reminds us of the future promise that our eternal inheritance will finally be consummated. We can live in hope, knowing that God's work in us will be completed at the glorious coming of Christ.

Ephesians 1:15

For this reason I also, having heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and love for all the saints,

Explanation: Paul expresses his gratitude and joy when he hears about the faith and love of the Ephesians. He hears about their faith in Christ Jesus and the love they show for all the saints, that is, for all Christians. Their faith and love are clear signs that the gospel is at work in their lives.

Theological evidence: Faith in Christ and love for the brethren are marks of the true Christian life (1 John 3:14; James 2:14-17). Paul often rejoices to see these virtues in the churches he pastors or ministers to, as we also see in his letters to the Philippians (Philippians 1:5) and Colossians (Colossians 1:4).

Reflection: Faith and love are inseparable in the Christian life. True faith expresses itself in love. This challenges us to reflect on how we are loving our brothers and sisters in faith and how this is evidence of our walk with Christ.

Ephesians 1:16

I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Explanation: Paul expresses his continued gratitude for the good news about the Christians in Ephesus. He mentions that he is always praying for them and thanking God for their faith and love. Prayer is a way for Paul to intercede for them, asking God to continue to bless them.

Theological evidence: Intercessory prayer is a recurring theme in Paul's life (Philippians 1:3-4; Colossians 1:3-4). He prays regularly for the churches he founded and for Christians, asking God to strengthen them in their faith and to grow them spiritually.

Reflection: Like Paul, we should be thankful and intercede for one another. Our prayers have power, and praying for fellow believers is a way of expressing our concern and love for them. We should also be diligent in thanking God for the blessings we see in the lives of others.

Ephesians 1:17

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.

Explanation: Paul prays that the Ephesians would receive wisdom and revelation, not just to understand more about God, but to know Him in a deeper way. "Wisdom" refers to the ability to understand the things of God, and "revelation" is the

knowledge that God gives of Himself, something we cannot attain by our own efforts.

Theological evidence: Wisdom and revelation come from God through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10-12). This wisdom is not just intellectual, but spiritual, enabling Christians to understand God's deepest truths.

Reflection: We must constantly seek a deeper knowledge of God. This knowledge does not come from studying alone, but from a sincere and prayerful search to understand His heart and will for our lives.

Ephesians 1:18

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

Explanation: Paul wants the Ephesians to be "enlightened," that is, their hearts and minds to be opened to fully understand what God has in store for them. He wants them to understand the "hope" of God's calling (the assurance of salvation) as well as the riches of the inheritance that Christians possess in Christ.

Theological evidence: The concept of spiritual "enlightenment" is found elsewhere in Ephesians (Ephesians 5:8-14). Understanding the hope of God's calling is central to the Christian life, for it gives us purpose and direction.

Reflection: We must ask God to enlighten our hearts and minds so that we can understand the greatness of what He has for us. Our hope is in Christ, and this should change our

the way we live every day. Our heritage is rich and wonderful, and it gives us eternal purpose.

Ephesians 1:19

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power!

Explanation: Paul prays that Christians would understand the immensity of God's power that works in us believers. He describes this power as "exceeding greatness," meaning that God's power is incomparable and infinite. He uses strong words like "working" and "strength" to show the energy and effectiveness of this power, which is directed toward those who believe.

Theological evidence: The power of God is not just an abstract force, but an active force that effectively operates in the lives of believers. In Romans 8:11, Paul speaks of the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead and that also works in our hearts. This power is the same power that transforms us, strengthens us, and enables us to live according to God's will.

Reflection: God's power is incomprehensibly great, but He has chosen to use it in our lives. This gives us confidence to face any challenge, knowing that God's power is working in us to transform us and empower us to live the Christian life. We must remember that we are not alone, but God is with us, working on our behalf.

Ephesians 1:20

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

Explanation: Paul describes how God exercised His ultimate power by raising Christ from the dead and exalting Him to His right hand, to a position of supreme authority. Jesus' resurrection is the greatest demonstration of God's power, for He defeated death and sin. By being raised to the right hand of God, Jesus is given authority over all things.

Theological evidence: Christ's exaltation to the right hand of God is mentioned in Acts 2:33 and Hebrews 1:3. It means that Jesus is in the position of greatest honor and power, ruling over all creation. His resurrection is the guarantee of our own resurrection and victory over death.

Reflection: The resurrection and exaltation of Christ reminds us that in Christ, death has been conquered and victory is ours. He is on the throne, ruling with authority, and His victory is our victory. We must live with confidence, knowing that He reigns sovereignly over every circumstance of our lives.

Ephesians 1:21

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.

Explanation: Paul makes it clear that Christ's authority is superior to any spiritual or earthly power or authority. He is above "principality, power, might and dominion," which are terms used to describe different levels of authority in the universe, including the spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12). Christ is not only above these

authorities today, but also in the future, at His return.

Theological evidence: The supremacy of Christ over all authorities is a key theme in Paul's epistles. In Colossians 1:16-18, Paul also declares that Christ is the Creator and Lord of all things visible and invisible. His authority is limitless and eternal, from the present to the end of all time.

Reflection: Christ's supremacy over all things should bring us great peace and confidence. No matter what happens around us, Jesus is in control of every situation, both now and in the future. This should motivate us to trust Him completely, for He is the sovereign Lord over all circumstances.

Ephesians 1:22

And he put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church,

Explanation: Paul teaches us that God has placed all things under Jesus' feet, symbolizing that He has complete authority over everything. Furthermore, God has placed Christ as the head of the Church. This means that Christ is the supreme leader of the Church, and everything the Church does must be under His leadership and authority.

Theological evidence: The idea of Christ as the head of the church is central to the New Testament (Colossians 1:18). He is the Lord, guide, and sustainer of the church. The church, as His body, is to follow His direction and live according to His will. He exercises absolute authority over the church and at the same time nourishes and cares for it.

Reflection: Christ's position as head of the Church reminds us that the Church is not ours, but His. We are

We are called to submit to His authority, live in obedience to Him, and do His will. When the Church follows Christ as its head, it is guided to fulfill the mission He has given us.

Ephesians 1:23

Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Explanation: The Church is described as the "body" of Christ. This means that we are an extension of Christ in the world, and He is the head, from whom all direction and decisions flow. The Church, as His body, is called to live according to His fullness, reflecting His character and mission. Christ, being the fullness of God, fulfills His purpose through the Church, which is His representation on earth.

Theological evidence: The concept of the church being the body of Christ is found in 1 Corinthians 12:27 and Colossians 1:24. The church is made up of all believers, and it is through the church that Christ continues to carry out His work in the world. The fullness of Christ is manifested in the church, for He is the one who enables it to fulfill His purpose.

Reflection: As members of the body of Christ, we are called to live in a way that reflects His fullness. This means that we are to be instruments of His grace, love, and truth in the world. We are His hands, His feet, and His voice, and our mission is to carry out His work until He returns.

Final Reflection on Ephesians 1

The apostle Paul, when writing about the supremacy and power of Christ, invites us to reflect on the magnitude of the

that God has done for us and for us. He reminds us that the power of God, evidenced in the resurrection and exaltation of Christ, is not a distant or abstract power, but an active force at work in the lives of believers. This power not only raised Jesus from the dead, but also placed him at the right hand of God, in a position of total authority over all things, visible and invisible.

When Paul speaks of Christ as the “head of the church,” he challenges us to understand that the church does not exist to be a human organization, but rather the body of Christ, with Him as the leader and source of our strength. He is the head who guides us, directs us, and empowers us to live according to His will. This implies a total surrender to His authority and a constant commitment to live in union with Him as members of His body.

Christ, as the head of the church, has a purpose for us: to be the fullness of His grace and authority in the world. This means that we are called to reflect His life, His love, and His power in everything we do. As the church, we are His representatives in the world, and as we live out this reality, we show everyone the truth about Christ and His kingdom.

Therefore, the reflection that presents itself is clear: Christ is not only governing, but He invites us to participate in His government, to be His expression in the world. The power that raised Christ and exalted Him to His right hand is the same power that works in us. We must live with the awareness that, as members of the body of Christ, we are called to fulfill His mission on earth with boldness, faith and commitment.

This power enables us to live the Christian life with confidence, knowing that regardless of circumstances, Christ is sovereign over all things and by doing so, He is the One who
As we submit to Him, we experience the true fullness that comes from His presence. May this truth inspire us to live with faith, wisdom, and an even greater dedication to the calling God has given us as His people.

Study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

- Chapter 2 (Verse by Verse Explanation)

Ephesians 2 is a chapter that emphasizes the radical transformation that occurs in the lives of those who have been reached by God's grace. The apostle Paul begins by reminding the Christians in Ephesus of the condition of spiritual death they were in before they met Christ, but by His mercy they were raised to new life. He highlights the work of reconciliation accomplished by Christ, which not only restored our relationship with God but also united us with one another, breaking down the barriers between Jews and Gentiles. This chapter teaches us about God's immense grace and how it transforms us, making us members of a new humanity in Christ, a living temple where God dwells through His Spirit.

Verse 1: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins."

Explanation:

Paul begins by highlighting the spiritual condition of Christians before Christ: spiritually dead. Death here is not physical, but a separation from God caused by sin. The apostle reminds us that before we had life in Christ, we were dead in our sins. This spiritual death is the natural consequence of sin, which separates us from God and keeps us away from His presence.

Theological Proofs:

In Romans 3:23, Paul states that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Spiritual death is the result of sin, and without divine action, we remain in that state.

Reflection:

This verse leads us to reflect on our true condition without Christ. Our nature, in itself, separates us from God, making any spiritual communion impossible without divine intervention.

Verse 2: "In which ye in time past walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

Explanation:

Paul explains that before Christ, we were under the influence of "the prince of the power of the air," which is a reference to Satan and the spirit of rebellion that dominates the world. The "course of this world" refers to the way of life driven by worldly values and desires that are contrary to God's will. The "spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience" refers to the way Satan and his demons influence those who still live in sin.

Theological Proofs:

In 1 John 5:19, it says that "the whole world lies in the power of the wicked one," reaffirming that those who are not yet in Christ are under the dominion of sin and Satan.

Reflection:

Before we knew Christ, we were unaware of the evil influence in our lives. Only by freeing ourselves from this spiritual bondage through Christ can we experience true freedom and salvation.

Verse 3: "Among whom also we all once lived in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as others."

Explanation:

Paul includes us, stating that all of us, without exception, walked "in the lusts of our flesh," that is, we inclined toward selfish pleasures and desires, which often oppose God. This behavior, led by the flesh (corrupt human nature), made us "children of wrath," that is, subject to God's just condemnation.

Theological Proofs:

In Romans 8:7, Paul says that "the mind set on the flesh is enmity against God," and in Ephesians 5:6, he warns of God's wrath on the children of disobedience.

Reflection:

This verse is a reminder that our natural inclination is toward sin and disobedience. We need God's grace to change our hearts and nature, something that is only possible in Christ.

Verse 4: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us."

Explanation:

Here begins the good news. Even though we are in a state of spiritual death and rebellion, God, in His incomprehensible mercy and love, has decided to act on our behalf. God's mercy is something that stands out in relation to our indifference and sin, and His love has no limits.

Theological Proofs:

In Titus 3:5, Paul speaks of God's "great love" and His mercy that saves us. God does not give us what we deserve (justice), but offers us His forgiveness.

Reflection:

God's mercy is a gift. He did not treat us according to our sins, but because of His love,

gave us a new opportunity. The fact that we are alive in Christ is proof of His immense love.

Verse 5: "And hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved);"

Explanation:

This verse explains how God brought us from spiritual death to life: He "made us alive," that is, gave us new life, uniting us to Christ in His resurrection. Salvation is an act of grace, something we do not deserve, but which God freely grants us.

Theological Proofs:

In Colossians 2:13, Paul also talks about how God has "made us alive" with Christ, canceling the debt of sin. Salvation is a work of God's grace alone, not something we can earn on our own.

Reflection:

Salvation is a miracle. It is not a merit, but a gift that God gives us by His grace. We should live with gratitude, knowing that we have been "made alive" in Christ, not by our own deeds, but by His goodness.

Verse 6: "And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Explanation:

In addition to giving us life, God raised us up with Christ. Christ's resurrection is not just a historical event, but something that directly affects us: we have been spiritually raised up with Him. What's more, He has made us "sit together in the heavenly places," that is, in Christ, our position before God has been elevated to a place of honor and dignity.

Theological Proofs:

In Colossians 3:1-3, Paul says that, "if you were raised

with Christ, seek the things that are above", showing that our identity is now established in heaven, in Christ.

Reflection:

Our new position in Christ gives us an eternal perspective. We are no longer slaves to sin, but citizens of heaven, and we must live in accordance with this heavenly reality.

Verse 7: "That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

Explanation:

God's purpose in saving us and raising us spiritually is to display the "exceeding riches" of His grace. He desires that, throughout the generations, His goodness and grace be reflected through our lives.

Theological Proofs:

In Romans 9:23, Paul also talks about how God wants to display the riches of His glory and mercy. Salvation is a demonstration of God's grace, both now and in the future.

Reflection:

Salvation is not only for our benefit, but also so that God's grace may be visible and appreciated by all. We must be reflections of that grace in our daily lives.

Verse 8: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."

Explanation:

This verse explains the basis of salvation: it is by grace, through faith, and not by human merit. The faith we have is

a gift from God, that is, even our ability to believe comes from His mercy.

Theological Proofs:

In Romans 3:24, Paul reinforces that we are justified freely by God's grace, and in Ephesians 1:19, he speaks of God's "power" in giving us faith.

Reflection:

Salvation is entirely the work of God. There is nothing we can do to earn it, and the faith that saves us is also given by Him. This calls us to humility, recognizing that everything we have comes from His generous hand.

Verse 9: "Not of works, so that no one can boast."

Explanation:

Paul reminds us that salvation is not achieved by human works. If it were, we could be proud of our own abilities, but salvation is a gift, and therefore, there is no room for pride.

Theological Proofs:

In Titus 3:5, Paul also points out that "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us."

Reflection:

We must always remember that our salvation is not by our own merits, but by grace. This eliminates any reason for boasting and keeps us humble before God.

Verse 10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Explanation:

Although salvation is not earned by works, we were “created in Christ Jesus for good works.” This means that after we are saved, God has a purpose for us: to live according to His will, performing good works that reflect His goodness.

Theological Proofs:

In James 2:17, it is emphasized that "faith, if it does not have works, is dead." Genuine faith manifests itself in good works that are the fruits of salvation.

Reflection:

Salvation is not an end in itself, but the beginning of a new life of obedience and service to God. Good works are the natural expression of a life transformed by grace.

Verse 11: "Wherefore remember, that ye in time past, Gentiles in the flesh, being called unto circumcision by that which is called the circumcision in the flesh made with hands."

Explanation:

Paul begins this section by reminding the Gentiles (non-Jews) of their former condition before Christ. He calls them “Gentiles in the flesh,” referring to those who, because they were not Jews, did not have the mark of the covenant made with God, which was circumcision. Circumcision was a physical sign of God’s covenant with the people of Israel. The “calling in circumcision” and “circumcision made with hands” refer to the distinction that the Jews made between themselves and the Gentiles, who were considered to be outside of God’s blessings.

Theological Proofs:

In Galatians 5:6, Paul teaches that physical circumcision is of no value without genuine faith. True circumcision, according to Romans 2:29, is that of the heart.

Reflection:

This verse leads us to reflect on how cultural and religious barriers can separate us from God and from each other. In Christ, these barriers are broken, and we must no longer define our identity based on external differences.

Verse 12: "That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."

Explanation:

Paul reminds the Gentiles of their desperate condition before Christ. They were "without Christ," that is, without the salvation that He offered. They were "alienated from the commonwealth of Israel" and "strangers from the covenants of promise," meaning that they had no access to the promises and blessings that God had made to the people of Israel. Without Christ, they were without hope and without a relationship with God, which left them lost and without an eternal purpose.

Theological Proofs:

In Ephesians 2:19, Paul shows that in Christ, the Gentiles are now part of God's family. Also, in Colossians 1:27, he talks about the hope of glory, which is Christ in us.

Reflection:

This verse makes us think about the importance of knowing Christ. Without Him, our lives are empty and without direction. Christ is the source of our hope and eternal purpose.

Verse 13: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Explanation:

Here Paul introduces the radical change that takes place in Christ. Those who were "far off," the Gentiles, have been "brought near by the blood of Christ." Jesus' death on the cross was the means by which the Gentiles, once excluded from God's promise, now have access to salvation. The blood of Christ, shed for all, is the means by which the separation between the Gentiles and God has been removed.

Theological Proofs:

In Colossians 1:20, Paul states that God reconciled all things to Himself "through the blood of His cross." Jesus' sacrifice was what opened the way for everyone, Jew and Gentile, to be reconciled to God.

Reflection:

This verse reminds us of the great price paid for our salvation. The blood of Christ is not just a symbol, but the real sacrifice that brought us closer to God. We should live with gratitude for this redemptive work.

Verse 14: "For he himself is our peace, who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of hostility."

Explanation:

Paul describes Christ as "our peace." He is the one who brought peace between Jews and Gentiles, who were previously in constant conflict due to religious and cultural differences. "He made both one" means that in Christ, Jews and Gentiles are no longer separate, but are one body. He has "broken down the middle wall of partition," referring to the division caused by the ceremonial law and covenantal differences between Jews and Gentiles, eliminating the enmity.

Theological Proofs:

In 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, Paul talks about how God reconciled all things to himself, creating peace through

Christ. Ephesians 2:16 also highlights the reconciliation that Christ brought, breaking down barriers between people.

Reflection:

Christ is the ultimate peacemaker. In His death, He brought unity where there was division. This challenges us to live in harmony and unity with others, especially those who are different from us, reflecting the peace of Christ.

Verse 15: "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, that he might create in himself of the two one new man, so making peace."

Explanation:

Paul explains that Christ, in His flesh, abolished the "enmity" that was rooted in the "law of commandments" (the ceremonial rules and regulations given to Israel). He removed this separation to create "one new man," a new people, composed of both Jews and Gentiles, who now live in peace. The concept of a "new man" is central: in Christ, distinctions are removed and all are one in His Church.

Theological Proofs:

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul speaks of the creation of a new creature in Christ. The peace that Christ brought is not only internal, but also between different cultures and ethnicities.

Reflection:

In Christ, we are made new. This transformation leads us to live differently, uniting us into one body. If in Christ there is unity, we must be agents of peace and reconciliation in our divided world.

Verse 16: "And to reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby."

Explanation:

Paul points out that the cross of Christ was the means by which both Jews and Gentiles were reconciled to God. The "enmity" between them was "put to death" on the cross, and now both can live in harmony with God and with each other.

Theological Proofs:

In Colossians 1:20-22, Paul says that Christ made peace through the blood of the cross, reconciling all things to God, both in heaven and on earth.

Reflection:

The cross is the center of our reconciliation, both with God and with others. We must remember that through the cross we are called to live in unity, leaving behind any divisions that separate us.

Verse 17: "And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near."

Explanation:

Paul explains that Christ came to preach peace, both to the Gentiles (who were far away) and to the Jews (who were near, because they were part of God's covenant). Jesus brought the gospel of peace to everyone, regardless of their origin.

Theological Proofs:

In Luke 2:10-14, the announcement of Jesus' birth is made as "good news of great joy," proclaiming peace among men. The gospel brings peace to all peoples.

Reflection:

The peace that Christ offers is not limited to one culture or people, but is universal. This challenges us to share this peace with everyone, without distinction.

Verse 18: "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."

Explanation:

Through Christ, both Jews and Gentiles have "access to the Father." The Holy Spirit is the means by which all, regardless of their background, can approach God, making them part of one body.

Theological Proofs:

In Hebrews 10:19-22, it states that through Christ we have boldness to enter the holiest of all by the Spirit.

Reflection:

In Christ, we have freedom of access to God, something that was not possible before. We must take advantage of this privilege to maintain an intimate relationship with the Father, praying and seeking His presence.

Verse 19: "So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

Explanation:

Paul declares that the Gentiles, once "strangers," are now "fellow citizens" and "members of God's household." There is no longer a distinction between Jews and Gentiles in regard to access to God, for all are now part of God's people.

Theological Proofs:

In 1 Peter 2:9, Peter says that we are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." In Christ, the church is God's new community.

Reflection:

This is a major identity shift. In Christ, we are no longer outsiders, but members of God's family.

This reminds us of the importance of living as part of His Church, with unity and love.

Verse 20: "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone."

Explanation:

Paul compares the church to a building under construction. The "foundation" is formed by the apostles and prophets, who established revealed truth. The "chief cornerstone" is Christ, the foundation and support of the church, who gives unity and stability.

Theological Proofs:

In 1 Peter 2:6-7, Christ is called the "cornerstone," and in Matthew 16:18, He declares that He is the foundation upon which the Church will be built.

Reflection:

The Church is not built on our own efforts, but on the work of Christ and the teachings of the apostles. We need to remember our dependence on Christ as the basis of our faith and unity.

Verse 21: "In whom all the building, being fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord."

Explanation:

The body of Christ (the Church) is compared to a building being "fitly framed together." Each member of the Church has a unique function, and all together form a "holy temple," a place where God dwells.

Theological Proofs:

In 1 Corinthians 3:16, Paul states that "you are the temple of God," and in 1 Peter 2:5, believers are described as "living stones" who build a spiritual building.

Reflection:

We are all part of this building, each with an important role. We must work together so that the Church is a place where God manifests himself and is worshiped.

Verse 22: "In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Explanation:

Paul concludes by saying that the Church is a place where God lives, through the Holy Spirit. We are built "together", that is, in unity, to be the dwelling place of God.

Theological Proofs:

In 1 Corinthians 6:19, Paul reminds us that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The church, as a collective body, is also the dwelling place of God.

Reflection:

God dwells in us, and this is a responsibility and a privilege. We need to live in such a way that His presence is manifested in our midst, through unity and holiness.

Final Reflection on Ephesians 2

This chapter of Ephesians leads us to a profound reflection on the impact of Christ's redemptive work on our lives, both individually and collectively. Throughout these verses, Paul teaches us that in Christ we have been reconciled with God and with one another. He has broken down the barriers that separated us, both spiritually and socially, and has made all believers, Jews and Gentiles, one body, at peace with the Father.

The cross of Christ, the sacrifice He made for us, is the central point of this reconciliation. There is no longer any distinction between who is near or far from God; everyone has access to the

His grace and salvation. This means that the unity of the body of Christ must be lived out in a practical way in our daily relationships. The Church is not just a building, but a living body where God dwells through His Spirit, and each member has an essential role to play. The peace of Christ must be the foundation of our coexistence, breaking down the divisions that still exist between us, whether cultural, social or personal.

We also remember that our identity in Christ is no longer defined by the divisions of the world, but by the new covenant He has established. We are called to live as children of God, part of a spiritual family, where reconciliation and love should be the foundation of all our interactions. This challenges us to be agents of peace, not only in our personal lives, but also in those around us, reflecting the character of Christ in all that we do.

In short, Ephesians 2 reminds us of the great transformation that occurred through Christ: from enemies to children of God, from outcasts to members of His family. Christ's work on the cross not only reconciled us to God, but also gave us the privilege of living in unity with other brothers and sisters in Christ, forming a living temple for the Lord. May we live this truth in practical ways, being a light in the world and showing, through our actions, that the peace of Christ is real and transforming.

Study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

- Chapter 3 (Verse by Verse Explanation)

Ephesians 3 reveals the mystery of God's plan for the salvation of humanity, which was revealed to Paul and is now shared with believers. The apostle speaks about the inclusion of the Gentiles in the body of Christ, emphasizing that through Jesus, all have access to God's promise. He also prays intensely, asking that Christians experience the fullness of God in their lives, knowing that Christ's love is infinite and God's power is limitless. This chapter invites us to reflect on the richness of God's grace and the call to live in unity, love, and faith.

Verse 1: "For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, for the sake of you Gentiles,"

Explanation: Paul begins this chapter by saying that he is a prisoner of Christ, not just a prisoner of the Roman Empire. His imprisonment is because of his commitment to Christ and his mission to bring the message of salvation to the Gentiles (non-Jews). He highlights the reason he is in prison: Christ's love for the Gentiles, which includes all nations, and his calling to be an apostle to these peoples.

Theological Proof: Paul makes a point of identifying himself as a prisoner of Christ, showing that his life is entirely dedicated to the gospel, and not to his own will or to the empire. The mission of evangelizing the Gentiles is central to Paul's ministry, as we see in other texts, such as in Acts 22:21, where he is sent to all peoples to proclaim the gospel.

Reflection: Paul's commitment to his mission, even in the face of suffering and imprisonment, challenges us to reflect on our willingness to live sacrificially for Christ and His work. What are we willing to do for the sake of the gospel?

Verse 2: "If indeed ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given me for you;"

Explanation: Paul refers to the "dispensation of God's grace" as the revelation of the plan of salvation that he received to share with the Gentiles. The word "dispensation" indicates the divine plan that was entrusted to Paul to administer and reveal to others, especially the Gentiles.

Theological Proof: The grace of God, revealed through Christ, is a constant theme in Paul's life (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is the basis of the salvation Paul preaches, and it was given to him so that the Gentiles could share in it, something that was a mystery in the Old Testament but has now been revealed in Christ.

Reflection: God entrusted Paul and the Christians with the mission of sharing His grace with others. How have you fulfilled this calling? Have we been faithful to this calling to minister grace to those who do not know Christ?

Verse 3: "As by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have written above in few words,"

Explanation: Paul refers to a divine revelation he received from Christ. This "mystery" is God's plan of salvation, which includes the inclusion of the Gentiles in Christ's promise, something that was not fully understood before.

Theological Proof: The concept of "mystery" in Paul does not refer to something that is incomprehensible, but rather to something

which was hidden in the Old Testament but has now been revealed in Christ (cf. Colossians 1:26-27). This "mystery" is the gospel that includes both Jews and Gentiles.

Reflection: God has revealed His plan of salvation to us through Christ. What does this mean for you personally? How does the revealed "mystery" of Christ impact the way you live your life of faith?

Verse 4: "From which reading you may understand my understanding of the mystery of Christ,"

Explanation: Paul says that by reading what he has written previously, Christians can understand the depth of the "mystery" of Christ, that is, the inclusion of the Gentiles in the plan of salvation.

Theological Proof: Knowledge of the "mystery" of Christ is fundamental to understanding the work of redemption. Paul writes about this frequently, as in Colossians 1:27, where he reveals that Christ, in us, is the hope of glory. The revelation of this mystery makes us participants in the work of God.

Reflection: God wants us to understand His plan and will revealed in Christ. How are we seeking to know more deeply God's Word and His plan for our lives and for the world?

Verse 5: "Which in other generations was not known to the children of men, as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;"

Explanation: The "mystery" Paul mentions was unknown in the Old Testament, but has now been revealed to the apostles and prophets of the New Testament. This mystery is the inclusion of the Gentiles as joint heirs of the

salvation, something that was hidden but is now revealed through the Holy Spirit.

Theological Proof: The revelation of the mystery through the Holy Spirit is a theme that appears several times in Paul's letters, as in 1 Corinthians 2:10. This revelation is given to the apostles and prophets to be shared with the Church.

Reflection: God has given us His revelation through the Spirit, and He wants us to share it with others. Are we sharing this revealed truth, which includes all people in God's grace, with the people around us?

Verse 6: "That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and members of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,"

Explanation: This verse reveals the "mystery" clearly: the Gentiles are now part of God's plan of salvation, being joint heirs with the Jews, members of the body of Christ, and participants in the promise made to Abraham.

Theological Proof: The idea that Gentiles are joint heirs with Jews is central to Paul's theology. In Galatians 3:28, Paul states that in Christ there is no longer any distinction between Jew and Gentile. In Christ, all are one.

Reflection: The inclusion of Gentiles in God's plan teaches us about unity and equality in Christ. How have you lived this unity in the Church, accepting all members, regardless of their background or history?

Verse 7: "Of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me, according to the effectual working of his power."

Explanation:Paul recognizes that his role as a minister of the gospel is a gift of God's grace. He was called to serve as an apostle to the Gentiles, a role he fulfilled with the enabling power of God.

Theological Proof:Paul's calling and equipping for ministry are mentioned in Acts 9:15-16. He acknowledges that his ability to serve the gospel comes directly from God.

Reflection:Like Paul, we too are called to serve in the ministry of the gospel. We are recognizing and utilizing God's gifts and grace to fulfill the calling He has for our lives?

Verse 8: "To me, the least of all saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,"

Explanation:Paul humbly describes himself as "the least of all the saints," acknowledging that he is not worthy but has been chosen by God to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. He considers himself a "servant," but one who has been given the grace to proclaim the riches of Christ, an incomparable and unexplored gospel.

Theological Proof:Paul always demonstrates humility about his calling. In 1 Corinthians 15:9, he describes himself as "the least of the apostles." Yet God's grace enables him to accomplish great things in Christ.

Reflection:Paul teaches us that even though we are humble, God can use us in powerful ways. Are we allowing God to use us regardless of our perception of ourselves?

Verse 9: "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which for ages hath been hid in God, who created all things:"

Explanation:Paul was called to reveal God's hidden "mystery," the plan of salvation for all, including the Gentiles. This plan had been hidden from time immemorial, but now it was revealed to him to be proclaimed.

Theological Proof:The "mystery" of God, revealed through Christ, is a message of inclusion. Previously, this plan was hidden, but now it is fully revealed in Christ and the work of the Spirit (Colossians 1:26-27).

Reflection:God wants us to understand His plan and share it with others. Are we striving to understand more deeply what He has revealed to us through Christ?

Verse 10: "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be made known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,"

Explanation:The purpose of God's revelation and Paul's preaching is that through the church the wisdom of God might be demonstrated, even to the spiritual authorities (the principalities and powers) in heaven. The church, as the body of Christ, is the witness to God's wisdom and redemptive plan.

Theological Proof:The idea that the Church is an instrument of revelation of God's wisdom is expressed in 1 Corinthians 1:24 and 1 Peter 1:12. The Church, through its life and mission, declares God's wisdom to all spiritual spheres.

Reflection:The Church is called to be a showcase of God's wisdom. How are you helping the Church to be a reflection of that wisdom by living faithfully and proclaiming the good news of Christ?

Verse 11: "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord,"

Explanation:

Paul emphasizes that God's plan, which includes salvation for the Gentiles, is not something new or accidental, but an eternal purpose that was established by God in Christ. The coming of Christ and the plan of salvation for all peoples are part of a divine purpose from the foundation of the world.

Theological Proof:

God's eternal plan is clearly revealed in passages such as Ephesians 1:4, where it says that God chose us "before the foundation of the world." This purpose was accomplished through Jesus Christ, who brought salvation to both Jews and Gentiles.

Reflection:

God's salvation is not a random event, but part of an eternal plan. This leads us to reflect: how can we live in a way that honors this divine purpose, knowing that we were included in this plan before we were born?

Verse 12: "In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in him."

Explanation:

This verse speaks of the confidence we have in Christ. In Christ, we can approach God with boldness and confidence. This boldness is not because of our own strength, but because of the faith we have in Christ, who has opened the way for us to have a direct relationship with God.

Theological Proof:

In Hebrews 4:16, Paul also emphasizes that we can approach the throne of grace with confidence to receive

mercy. The work of Christ is what gives us direct access to God, something that was previously not possible for the Gentiles.

Reflection:

Christ gives us direct access to God. How are we using this access? Are we approaching God with confidence, or are we turning away from Him? Faith in Christ is the key to this intimate relationship.

Verse 13: "Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory."

Explanation:

Paul reminds the Ephesians that their trials and sufferings are not a reason to be discouraged. On the contrary, these hardships are for their glory, for they are part of God's plan to spread the gospel and strengthen their faith. Paul, as an apostle, sees his own hardships as a sign of Christ's work in his life.

Theological Proof:

In 2 Corinthians 4:17, Paul speaks of suffering being temporary and light compared to the eternal glory that is to come. Paul's suffering, rather than being a hindrance, serves as a testimony to his faithfulness and mission.

Reflection:

The challenges and sufferings we face in life are not in vain. They are often used by God to glorify His name and strengthen our faith. How can we view our difficulties from this perspective?

Verse 14: "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,"

Explanation:

Paul expresses his deep reverence for God by

getting on his knees, a gesture of humility and prayer. He does this before the heavenly Father, recognizing His sovereignty and the importance of what is being asked.

Theological Proof:

In several parts of Scripture, the posture of kneeling is associated with worship and prayer, as in Philippians 2:10, where it says that "every knee will bow" before Christ.

Prayer is an acknowledgment of our dependence on God.

Reflection:

Prayer is an attitude of humility and recognition that we depend on God in all things. How are we approaching God in prayer? Are we acknowledging His sovereignty in our lives?

Verse 15: "From whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,"

Explanation:

Paul refers to the great family of God, made up of both those on earth and those already in heaven. This includes all believers, from all times and places, united through Christ, who is the head of this family.

Theological Proof:

This idea that we are one big family of God is present in other passages, such as in John 1:12, where those who receive Christ become children of God, and in Ephesians 1:5, which speaks of our adoption as children of God.

Reflection:

Being part of God's family gives us a deep sense of belonging. How do you see the Church as a family? Are we valuing our identity as children of God, united with one another?

Verse 16: "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;"

Explanation:

Paul prays that the Ephesians would be strengthened spiritually by the power of the Holy Spirit. This strengthening takes place in the "inner man," the spiritual being, not in our external strength, and is according to the greatness of God's glory.

Theological Proof:

The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us spiritual strength and transforms us internally. Paul speaks in Romans 8:11 about how the Spirit gives life to our mortal bodies, and in Ephesians 6:10 about the need to be strong in the Lord and in His power.

Reflection:

Our strengthening comes from the Holy Spirit, not from our own strength. Are we allowing the Spirit to strengthen and transform us from the inside out? True change begins in our hearts, in our inner being.

Verse 17: "That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,"

Explanation:

Paul prays that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, and that, being firmly established in God's love, our lives may be shaped by that love. The word "dwell" indicates a continual presence of Christ in us.

Theological Proof:

In John 14:23, Jesus says that if anyone loves Him, He and the Father will come and make their home with him. The love of Christ must be the

foundation of our life, as we see in 1 John 4:19, where it says that we love because He first loved us.

Reflection:

Having Christ dwelling in our hearts is fundamental to a true Christian life. What is ruling our hearts? Are we allowing the love of Christ to be the foundation and motivation for everything we do?

Verse 18: "May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and height, and depth,"

Explanation:

Paul prays that Christians will understand the vastness of Christ's love, which has no limits, and that this understanding be shared with all the saints. The language of "breadth, length, height and "depth" is a way of emphasizing the immensity of Christ's love, which is incomprehensible in its entirety.

Theological Proof:

Christ's love is often described as deep and unfathomable. In Romans 8:39, Paul states that nothing can separate us from God's love, and in John 15:13, Jesus says that there is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Reflection:

Christ's love is infinite and unconditional. How are we responding to that love in our daily lives? Are we living up to the depth of that love, loving others as Christ has loved us?

Verse 19: "And to know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God."

Explanation:

Paul prays that the Ephesians would know the love of Christ in a profound way that goes beyond human understanding, so that this experience would fill them with the fullness of God. The love of Christ is something we cannot fully understand, but it should transform our lives.

Theological Proof:

The love of Christ is something that cannot be fully understood by the human mind, but is revealed by the Spirit. In 1 John 4:9-10, we see that God's love is manifested in Christ, being the greatest demonstration of divine love.

Reflection:

Christ's love is deeper than we can understand, but it is enough to transform our lives. Are we seeking to experience this love more fully in our walk with Christ?

Verse 20: "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that works within us,"

Explanation:

Paul extols the power of God, who is able to do more than we can imagine. This power works in us through the Holy Spirit, who enables us to live for the glory of God in an abundant way.

Theological Proof:

God is described in several places in the Bible as the one who is infinitely able to do more than we ask or imagine (2 Corinthians 9:8). His power within us enables us to accomplish His will in ways that exceed our expectations.

Reflection:

God can do more than we can imagine, so we must fully trust in His ability to act in our lives. Are we limiting God in our vision of what He can do through us?

Verse 21: "To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen!"

Explanation:

Paul concludes with a doxology, giving glory to God for the work He accomplishes in the Church and in Christ. The glory of God is the reason for everything, and this glory is revealed in Christ Jesus and in the Church, throughout all generations.

Theological Proof:

The glory of God is central throughout the New Testament, as we see in Romans 11:36 and Revelation 5:13. The church is the means by which God's glory is manifested to the world.

Reflection:

Our entire lives should be focused on the glory of God, reflecting His work in Christ. Are we living in a way that brings glory to God, both individually and as a church?

Final Reflection on Ephesians 3

Ephesians 3 leads us to a deeper understanding of God's plan for the Church and for humanity. The apostle Paul, in his prayer, reminds us of the greatness of Christ's love, which surpasses all knowledge, and the immensity of God's power, which works in us in ways that are beyond what we can ask or imagine.

This chapter reveals the deep union we have in Christ, both with God and with each other, forming the "family of God", made up of all who have been

reconciled in Christ. Paul's prayer, in turn, reflects his desire that all believers may experience this reality in a lived way, with the fullness of God dwelling in their hearts.

The grandeur of God's work that Paul describes should inspire us to live boldly and confidently, knowing that we are grounded in an eternal purpose. We should also be grateful for this wonderful grace that gives us the opportunity to be part of God's plan for the world and to live in such a way that God's glory is revealed in everything we do.

Thus, the great lesson we can draw from Ephesians 3 is that our Christian life is profoundly marked by the immeasurable love of Christ, by the transforming action of the Holy Spirit within us, and by the call to live in a way that reflects this love and power, for the glory of God, for all generations.

May we live, in each moment, with the confidence that we are part of God's eternal plan and that, in Christ, we have everything we need to fulfill our mission in this world.

Study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians - Chapter 4 (Verse by Verse Explanation)

In Ephesians 4, Paul exhorts Christians to live a life worthy of the calling to which they have been called. He emphasizes the importance of unity in the body of Christ, the moral transformation that must take place in the life of the believer and the need to abandon old behavior marked by sin. The apostle also provides guidance on how Christians should relate to one another, with humility, patience, and forgiveness, reflecting the grace they have received from God. This chapter emphasizes the renewal of the mind and the practice of a life that honors Christ in all aspects.

Ephesians 4:1

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

Explanation:

Paul begins this chapter with a personal exhortation, identifying himself as a prisoner of the Lord, which implies that he is imprisoned because of his faith in Christ. This is a way of highlighting his dedication and commitment to the Gospel. The exhortation he makes is for Christians to live according to the high calling to which they have been called. The calling to which he refers is the call to salvation, the Christian life, and, most importantly, to live in a righteous and holy manner.

Theological proof:

The idea of living in a manner worthy of one's calling is central to the New Testament. Paul speaks in several letters about living in a way that reflects one's identity in Christ (Philippians 1:27; 1 Thessalonians 2:12).

Reflection:

God's calling is something high and sublime, and our lives should reflect this high standard. Every Christian has a responsibility to live according to the Gospel, evidencing this inner change through actions, words and attitudes.

Ephesians 4:2

"With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love."

Explanation:

Paul describes the attitudes needed to live a life worthy of the calling: humility, gentleness, patience, and love. Humility means recognizing our dependence on God and our need for others. Gentleness is control over anger, while longsuffering refers to patience in enduring hardships and others. These qualities form the basis of Christian relationships.

Theological proof:

These virtues are taught by Jesus, who is the ultimate example of humility and gentleness (Matthew 11:29). Furthermore, they are emphasized elsewhere in the New Testament as essential to the Christian life (Colossians 3:12-14).

Reflection:

True humility and gentleness are not weaknesses, but virtues that reflect the character of Christ. Being patient and bearing with one another in love is essential to maintaining unity and peace in the Christian community.

Ephesians 4:3

"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Explanation:

The pursuit of unity in the body of Christ is a central goal. Unity is maintained through the Holy Spirit, and this must be done in the bond of peace. Peace here is understood as harmony, not as the absence of conflict, but as the resolution of conflict in a way that preserves the integrity of the body of Christ.

Theological proof:

The Spirit is the bond that unites believers. Jesus prayed for the unity of believers (John 17:21-23), and Paul frequently exhorts unity in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

Reflection:

Unity in the church is a reflection of the unity of God. We must be diligent to preserve this unity, remembering that although we are different, we have a common mission and purpose in Christ.

Ephesians 4:4

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling."

Explanation:

Paul emphasizes the essential unity in the body of Christ: one body, one Spirit. All Christians, regardless of their background, are united in Christ and have a common hope of salvation. The "one hope" is eternal life in Christ, a promise that is given to all who believe.

Theological proof:

The unity of the body of Christ is repeatedly emphasized in the Pauline letters (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Shared hope is the basis of Christian faith (Titus 1:2).

Reflection:

In Christ, we are one big family with a common goal: to glorify God and achieve salvation. Our

Cultural and personal differences are secondary to the great hope we share.

Ephesians 4:5

"There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

Explanation:

Paul emphasizes the uniqueness of the Christian faith. There is only one Lord (Jesus Christ), one faith (the Christian belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior), and one baptism (the symbol of our union with Christ in his death and resurrection).

Theological proof:

Baptism is one of the fundamental sacraments of Christianity, an act of obedience that symbolizes our identification with Christ (Romans 6:3-4). One faith is the heart of the gospel (Acts 4:12).

Reflection:

The unity of Christianity is not based on human traditions or opinions, but on the one faith in Christ, who calls us to a life of obedience. Our baptism is a reminder of this union and commitment to the Lord.

Ephesians 4:6

"There is one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in you all."

Explanation:

God is presented as the Father of all, sovereign over all creation. He is above all, working in and through all believers. This view of God is holistic, encompassing every aspect of the Christian's life.

Theological proof:

God's sovereignty over all is a major theme in the Bible (Psalm 103:19; 1 Corinthians 8:6). God works through

His children and is present in all aspects of the believer's life.

Reflection:

God is the center of everything. He not only created and sustains all things, but He is also actively working in and through us, enabling us to live in a manner worthy of our calling.

Ephesians 4:7

"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."

Explanation:

Each Christian receives God's grace in an individual and unique way, according to the gift that Christ gives. The "grace" here refers to the spiritual gifts, or abilities that God gives to each believer to serve the body of Christ and accomplish His work.

Theological proof:

Spiritual gifts are described in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, where it is emphasized that all believers are gifted for the common good.

Reflection:

God equips us individually to serve His Kingdom. No gift is more important than another, and all are given to build up the church and fulfill God's purpose.

Ephesians 4:8

"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

Explanation:

This verse quotes Psalm 68:18, referring to Christ's ascension into heaven after His resurrection. "To lead captivity captive" means that Christ has conquered sin, death, and

Satan, and now He distributes the gifts that result from that victory.

Theological proof:

The ascension of Christ is a central event in Christianity (Acts 1:9-11). His victory over spiritual forces is part of the plan of salvation (Colossians 2:15).

Reflection:

Christ, by ascending into heaven, not only returns to His place of glory, but also gives us the means (through spiritual gifts) to live according to His will and continue His work.

Ephesians 4:9

"Now what does this 'he ascended' mean except that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?"

Explanation:

Paul reflects on the ascension of Christ. He emphasizes that before ascending to heaven, Christ descended into "hell" (that is, the realm of the dead), where He proclaimed victory over sin and death.

Theological proof:

Christ's descent is mentioned in 1 Peter 3:18-20, where it states that He preached to the spirits in prison, which can be interpreted as affirming Christ's victory over spiritual forces.

Reflection:

Christ's victory is total and comprehensive. He came down to face death head on, and when He came up, He definitively won eternal life for all of us.

Ephesians 4:10

"He who descended is also he who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things."

Explanation:

Christ, who descended into death, is now exalted above the entire universe, filling all things with His power and authority. He is Lord of all, and His ascension confirms His dominion over all things.

Theological proof:

The exaltation of Christ is an important theme in the New Testament (Philippians 2:9-11), which speaks of Christ's supremacy over all creation.

Reflection:

Jesus is not only in heaven, but He is Lord of the entire universe. His authority is absolute and all-encompassing, and His presence and power surround us wherever we are.

Ephesians 4:11

"And he himself gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

Explanation:

In this verse, Paul explains how Christ has given different gifts of leadership and ministry to the church. These gifts are distributed according to Christ's will for the building up of the body of Christ. He highlights five main ministries: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Each of these roles has a specific function in God's plan for the building up of the church.

Theological proof:

These gifts of leadership and ministry are essential to the spiritual growth of the church and are mentioned in other passages, such as 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Romans 12:6-8. Each ministry has a distinct function and contributes to the unity and maturity of the church.

Reflection:

God, through Christ, distributes specific gifts for the edification of the church. This reminds us that as members

of the body of Christ, we are called to work together for the expansion of the Kingdom of God, recognizing the importance of each ministry and its role in the formation of the Christian community.

Ephesians 4:12

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Explanation:

The purpose of Christ-given gifts as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers is to equip believers for the work of ministry and to build up the body of Christ. The term "equipping" here refers to the process of spiritual maturation, helping Christians grow in faith and be more effective in serving God and one another.

Theological proof:

The concept of "perfecting" the saints is central to the Christian life, and is seen elsewhere in the Bible, such as 2 Timothy 3:16-17, where God's Word is used to train and equip believers for every good work.

Reflection:

The goal of church leadership is not just to administer, but to equip believers for service. Every believer has a vital role in building up the body of Christ, and we are called to help one another grow spiritually.

Ephesians 4:13

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto the perfection of the perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

Explanation:

The ultimate goal of perfecting the saints is to attain unity in the faith and the full knowledge of Christ.

The image of the "perfection of the perfect man" represents spiritual maturity, that is, being like Christ in character and attitude. This is an ongoing process, until all Christians reach the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Theological proof:

The apostle John also speaks of perfection in Christ, saying that we will be like Him when He appears (1 John 3:2). Additionally, unity in faith is highlighted in other passages, such as Philippians 3:15-16, which exhorts believers to press on in their spiritual maturity.

Reflection:

Our goal as Christians is to grow more and more like Christ. This means that our Christian life should be marked by the pursuit of spiritual maturity, unity, and a deeper knowledge of Jesus.

Ephesians 4:14

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

Explanation:

Paul warns against spiritual fickleness, which occurs when believers are easily deceived by false doctrines. The "unstable child" here represents spiritual immaturity, and Paul describes how immature people are vulnerable to the manipulations of false doctrines that often arise from crafty people who distort the truth.

Theological proof:

The New Testament repeatedly warns about the dangers of false doctrines, as we see in 2 Peter 2:1-3 and Titus 1:10-11, which call Christians to be vigilant against erroneous teachings.

Reflection:

Spiritual maturity is a shield against false doctrines. When we are grounded in God's Word, we will not be easily led astray. The church needs believers who, through a deep knowledge of Scripture, resist any attempt at deception.

Ephesians 4:15

"But speaking the truth in love, we will grow up in all things into him who is the head, into Christ."

Explanation:

In contrast to fickleness and deception, Paul presents the solution: to follow the truth in love. Christian growth must be grounded in truth, but it must be practiced in love. Our ultimate goal is to be more like Christ, who is the head of the body.

Theological proof:

Jesus is the truth (John 14:6) and also the standard for how we should live in love (Ephesians 5:2). Growing in Christ is our ultimate goal and the standard for every Christian.

Reflection:

The balance between truth and love is essential. We cannot live in the pursuit of truth alone without it translating into love for people, and we cannot live in love without a solid foundation in the truth of Christ.

Ephesians 4:16

"From whom the whole body, joined together and knit together by the strength of every part, according to the proper working by which each part is working, makes increase of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

Explanation:

The body of Christ is described as being well joined together and consolidated. Each part of the body (i.e. each member

of the church) has a crucial role, and the cooperation of all contributes to the growth and edification of the body in love. Here, Paul reinforces the idea that the church is a living organism, where each part has a function that contributes to the good of all.

Theological proof:

The metaphor of the body is used extensively by Paul, as in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, where he teaches that, like a human body, the church is a unit composed of many members, each with their own role.

Reflection:

The church is a reflection of unity and diversity in Christ. Each of us has a unique and essential role in the body, and when we work together, the body grows and is built up in love.

Ephesians 4:17

"This I say, and testify in the Lord, that you henceforth walk not as other Gentiles do, in the vanity of their mind."

Explanation:

Paul exhorts believers not to live like the Gentiles (non-Christians), who live in the "vanity of their minds," that is, in a state of spiritual and moral worthlessness. Their minds are darkened by sin, and their attitudes reflect this.

Theological proof:

In Romans 1:21-22, Paul describes how the Gentiles, by not recognizing God, fall into a state of mental and moral darkness. This attitude contrasts with the Spirit-illuminated mind that Christians should have.

Reflection:

As Christians, we are called to live differently from the world. We are not to conform to the standards and

philosophies of the world, but rather to live according to the mind of Christ.

Ephesians 4:18

"And being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart."

Explanation:

Paul describes the spiritual condition of the Gentiles, who are "dark in their understanding" and "alienated from the life of God." This is a result of ignorance and hardness of heart, which prevents them from experiencing the true life that God offers.

Theological proof:

Spiritual blindness is a recurring theme in the Bible. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Paul speaks of the spiritual blindness of unbelievers who cannot see the light of the gospel. Jesus also speaks of hardness of heart in Matthew 13:15.

Reflection:

Without Christ, we are blind and alienated from true life. But in Christ, we are enlightened, and our hearts are transformed to know the abundant life He offers.

Ephesians 4:19

"Who being past all sensibility have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

Explanation:

Paul describes the moral condition of the Gentiles who live without God. They have lost their "sensibility," that is, the ability to feel remorse or regret for their sins. They have given themselves over to lust and

immoral practices with greed, which means that they intensely seek the satisfaction of their desires without moral or spiritual restrictions.

Theological proof:

The lost "sensibility" is a reflection of the hardness of heart mentioned in Ephesians 4:18. Jesus also describes this condition in Mark 7:21-23, where internal corruption leads people to practice impurity.

Reflection:

Lack of repentance and total surrender to fleshly desires separate us from the full life that God has for us. We are called to maintain a conscience that is sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit, who guides us toward purity and holiness.

Ephesians 4:20

"But you have not so learned Christ."

Explanation:

Here Paul draws a direct contrast between the life of the Gentiles he describes and the Christian life. He states that believers in Christ are not taught to live in a manner like the Gentiles, but rather in accordance with Christ's teachings, which promote purity, truth, and holiness.

Theological proof:

Jesus, in His life and teachings, demonstrated a lifestyle of holiness and purity. In John 14:6, He presents Himself as "the way, the truth, and the life," and in 1 John 2:6, it is stated that whoever claims to be in Christ must walk as He walked.

Reflection:

The Christian life is a call to live differently. We are not taught to follow the world's standards, but rather those of Christ, who calls us to a life of inner and moral transformation.

Ephesians 4:21

"If indeed you have heard him and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus."

Explanation:

Paul emphasizes that by hearing the gospel and being instructed in it, believers have been taught to live according to the truth that is in Jesus. The truth of Christ is not just a philosophical or moral idea, but a real, life-changing way of life that must be followed.

Theological proof:

The truth of Jesus is revealed in the Scriptures, and He is truth personified (John 14:6). Christians are called to know this truth and live it in every aspect of their lives (John 8:32).

Reflection:

The truth of Christ sets us free and transforms us. As we live this truth in our actions, thoughts, and attitudes, we reflect the character of Christ and show the world the true freedom and life He offers.

Ephesians 4:22

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts."

Explanation:

Paul exhorts believers to put off the "old man," that is, the old, sinful behavior that dominated them before they knew Christ. This "old man" is corrupted by the deceitful passions of sin. It represents the old nature, which seeks to gratify its desires without regard to God's will.

Theological proof:

In Romans 6:6, Paul speaks of the crucifixion of the "old man," referring to the power of sin that holds us back.

controlled before we were saved. Transformation begins when we put off this old man and put on the new nature in Christ (Colossians 3:9-10).

Reflection:

Transformation in Christ is a process of leaving behind our old nature and living as the new creation we are in Christ. Every choice we make to turn from sin brings us closer to the image of Christ.

Ephesians 4:23

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

Explanation:

Paul exhorts believers to be renewed in the spirit of their minds. This refers to the inner transformation that occurs when the mind is transformed by God's truth. The renewal of the mind is an ongoing process through which we allow God's Word and the Holy Spirit to shape our perceptions and attitudes.

Theological proof:

In Romans 12:2, Paul talks about the renewing of our minds, which enables us to discern what is God's good, acceptable and perfect will. The renewing of our minds is essential for spiritual growth and resistance to the temptations of the world.

Reflection:

Renewing our minds means allowing God's thoughts and values to replace the world's patterns. A transformed mind enables us to live in a way that is more aligned with God's purposes and to resist the negative influences around us.

Ephesians 4:24

"And that you put on the new man, created after God in righteousness and true holiness."

Explanation:

Paul concludes this section by saying that as we put off the old man and renew our minds, we must put on the “new man.” The new man is the new nature in Christ, which is created in the likeness of God, in righteousness and holiness. It reflects the morality and character of God.

Theological proof:

In Colossians 3:10, Paul speaks of the new man, who is renewed in knowledge in the image of the Creator. The new man is a transformed life, which reflects the righteousness and holiness of God.

Reflection:

As we put on the new man, we are aligning ourselves with the divine nature, living in righteousness and holiness. This requires ongoing effort, as it is a daily process of choosing to live according to the values of the Kingdom of God.

Ephesians 4:25

“Therefore, putting away lying, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”

Explanation:

Paul gives a concrete example of how to live according to the new man: putting away lying and speaking the truth. Lying, which is contrary to the nature of God, must be abandoned, and the truth must be practiced, for we are members of the body of Christ, and lying affects the unity of the church.

Theological proof:

In John 8:44, Jesus states that the devil is the father of lies. As Christians, we are called to live authentically and truthfully, reflecting the character of God, which is truth.

Reflection:

Truth is essential to the unity of the body of Christ. When we live authentically and sincerely,

We promote harmony and spiritual health in the church. Lying destroys relationships, while truth builds Christian community.

Ephesians 4:26

"Be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down upon your wrath."

Explanation:

Paul acknowledges that anger is a legitimate human emotion, but he warns that it should not lead to sin. Anger itself is not sinful, but the way we respond to it can be. Furthermore, he says not to let anger linger until the end of the day, that is, we should not harbor resentment or grudges. We should resolve our conflicts quickly and not allow anger to turn into bitterness or sinful actions.

Theological proof:

In James 1:19-20, we are told to "let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger," for "the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." Jesus also speaks of quick reconciliation in Matthew 5:23-24.

Reflection:

Anger is a natural emotion, but we need to learn to control it and resolve it in a healthy way. If we let it build up, it can turn into sin and damage our relationships. We must seek reconciliation before the day is over to prevent bitterness from taking over.

Ephesians 4:27

"Neither give place to the devil."

Explanation:

Paul warns us not to allow the devil to have a "loophole" in our lives. This can happen when

We hold grudges when we are dishonest or when we let anger, lying or any other sin take over us. These attitudes give the enemy an opportunity to influence our actions and thoughts.

Theological proof:

In 1 Peter 5:8, the apostle warns us to "be sober and vigilant," for the devil prowls around like a lion, seeking someone to devour. By giving in to sinful practices, we open the door for the enemy to work in our lives.

Reflection:

When we do not deal with our feelings and attitudes correctly, we open doors for the enemy. We must be vigilant in our behavior, always seeking to live in a way that honors God and resisting the devil.

Ephesians 4:28

"Let him who has been stealing steal no longer, but rather let him work, doing good with his own hands, that he may have something to share with the needy."

Explanation:

Paul instructs Christians to forsake the sin of theft and to live honestly and industriously. A Christian should not only refrain from stealing, but also use his or her labor to help others. The idea here is that we should live in such a way that we can be generous and help those in need.

Theological proof:

In 2 Thessalonians 3:10, Paul states that "if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat." In Acts 20:35, he teaches us that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," showing the importance of using labor to help others.

Reflection:

Work is not only a means of personal support, but also an opportunity to serve others. By working honestly and generously, we reflect the character of Christ and contribute to the well-being of those in need.

Ephesians 4:29

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only such as is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear."

Explanation:

Paul instructs Christians to avoid speaking words that are destructive or vulgar. Instead, our words should be edifying, that is, they should build up, encourage, and bless others. The word "filthy" refers to something immoral or corrupt. The goal of our words should always be to bring grace and edification to others.

Theological proof:

In Colossians 4:6, Paul says that our words should be "always with grace, seasoned with salt, so that we may know how we ought to answer each one." In Proverbs 12:18, he is taught that "there is a word that stabs like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

Reflection:

Our words have the power to build up or tear down. As Christians, we must be careful about what we say, always seeking to use language that builds up and not hurts. Every word should reflect the grace of God.

Ephesians 4:30

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Explanation:

Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit dwells within us and that our actions can grieve His presence in our lives. Sin and disobedience, especially in the attitudes mentioned above (anger, lying, etc.), cause the Spirit to grieve. We have been sealed by the Spirit for salvation, and He is our comforter and guide until the day of final redemption.

Theological proof:

In 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Paul says, "Do not quench the Spirit," which also reminds us that we can in some way grieve or quench the Spirit's action in us. The seal of the Spirit is a guarantee of our salvation (2 Corinthians 1:22).

Reflection:

We must be careful about our conduct, because our actions can affect our communion with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our guide and comforter, and we do not want to grieve Him, but live in harmony with Him, allowing Him to lead us to holiness.

Ephesians 4:31

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice."

Explanation:

Paul lists a series of negative attitudes that must be avoided in the life of a Christian. Bitterness, anger, rage, shouting, slander, and malice are behaviors that ruin relationships and spiritual life. Christians must avoid these sins, because they do not reflect the character of Christ.

Theological proof:

In Colossians 3:8, Paul also admonishes Christians to "put away all anger, rage, malice, slander, and

corrupt words." These destructive attitudes must be avoided to maintain peace and unity in the body of Christ.

Reflection:

These attitudes are like spiritual poisons that contaminate our relationships and our spiritual life. As Christians, we are called to put aside these attitudes and live with love, patience, and kindness.

Ephesians 4:32

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

Explanation:

Paul exhorts us to live with a heart full of kindness, mercy, and forgiveness. The basis for this behavior is the forgiveness we receive from God through Christ. When we practice forgiveness, we show others the grace we have received from God.

Theological proof:

In Colossians 3:13, Paul instructs Christians to "forgive one another, just as the Lord has forgiven you." Forgiveness is central to the gospel, and we are called to forgive because we have been forgiven by God in Christ (Matthew 18:21-22).

Reflection:

Forgiveness is a practice that reflects God's grace. We are to forgive one another as God has forgiven us. This requires humility, but it is essential to maintaining peace and unity in the body of Christ.

Final Reflection on Ephesians 4

In this chapter, Paul challenges us to live in a manner worthy of our Christian calling, reflecting the transformation that occurs when we are truly impacted by the Gospel. He

guides us to abandon attitudes and behaviors that damage relationships and distance us from God. Instead of feeding anger, lies, bitterness and sin, we are called to live with kindness, mercy and forgiveness, just as Christ did with us.

The central message here is that our conduct should be a response to the grace we have received from God. Forgiveness, reconciliation, and generosity are not just Christian virtues, but direct reflections of our relationship with God. We are called to act as Christ would act: with patience, with words that edify, and with a heart willing to forgive without hesitation.

By practicing these virtues, we not only live in harmony with others, but we also become a living witness to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. When our lives reflect these characteristics, we show the world the true difference that Christ makes in us. This transformation, then, is not only for our personal benefit, but also so that God's name may be glorified through our conduct.

In short, the Christian life is a life of constant change, of renouncing the ego and adopting the attitudes of Christ. By allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us, we can live in peace with one another and in communion with God, being true disciples of Christ.

Study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians - Chapter 5 (Verse by Verse Explanation)

Ephesians 5 addresses the practical Christian life, focusing on how Christians should live in relation to one another, and stresses the importance of imitating God in all behavior. The chapter emphasizes holiness in attitude, sacrificial love in relationships, and the unity of husband and wife, with in-depth insight into each person's role in marriage. Paul compares the marital relationship to the mystery of Christ's relationship with the church, showing that marriage is a reflection of God's love, commitment, and care. This chapter also exhorts Christians to live wisely, being a light in the world, and avoiding immorality.

Ephesians 5:1

"Therefore be imitators of God, as dear children;"

Explanation:

Paul begins with a strong call to imitate God. As children of God, we are invited to reflect His attributes in our lives. The idea of being an "imitator of God" means that we are to live by the same values that God demonstrates for us, such as love, grace, and forgiveness.

Theological proof:

The Bible teaches us that we are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26), and we are called to be like Him in character (1 Peter 1:16).

Reflection:

Imitating God does not mean that we are perfect like Him, but that we seek to be more like Him in the way we live. This calls us to be agents of love, forgiveness, and compassion in the world.

Ephesians 5:2

"And to walk in love, as Christ also loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

Explanation:

Here Paul invites us to live in love, imitating the supreme example of Christ. He gave Himself for us, sacrificing His own life on the cross. This love is described as an "offering" and "sacrifice," which symbolize Jesus' total devotion to our salvation.

Theological proof:

Christ's sacrifice is central to the Christian faith, being the ultimate expression of God's love for us (John 3:16). The "sweet aroma" indicates that Christ's sacrifice was pleasing to God.

Reflection:

The love we must live is not just a feeling, but an action of surrender. Christ gave himself completely for us, and we are called to live this love in practice, giving our lives in service to others.

Ephesians 5:3

"But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is fitting among saints;"

Explanation:

Paul contrasts Christian behavior with immoral attitudes. Prostitution, impurity, and greed are sins that should be avoided among Christians. As saints of God, our lives should reflect purity and holiness.

Theological proof:

The Bible teaches that we are called to holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:3). We are called to live differently from the world around us (Romans 12:2).

Reflection:

When we accept Christ, our lives must be transformed, reflecting values of purity, respect and generosity, in contrast to the selfishness and impurity of the world.

Ephesians 5:4

"And let there be no obscenity, nor fables, nor filthiness, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."

Explanation:

Paul warns us against inappropriate words and behaviors, such as obscenity and lying. Instead, we should practice gratitude, which is a reflection of our life in Christ.

Theological proof:

The Bible teaches the importance of our speech. We are to speak words that edify (Ephesians 4:29), and our language should reflect our new character in Christ (Colossians 3:8).

Reflection:

Our way of speaking has a great impact. Instead of spreading destructive words, we should be known for expressing gratitude and edification towards others, always remembering the blessings we have received from God.

Ephesians 5:5

"For this you may know, that no sexually immoral person, nor impure person, nor covetous person, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

Explanation:

Paul makes it clear that those who continue to live immorally, as described, will not have a part in the kingdom of God. These behaviors are identified as

forms of idolatry, placing the desire for earthly things above God.

Theological proof:

Jesus teaches us that we cannot serve both God and riches (Matthew 6:24). The apostle John also warns about the idolatry of desire (1 John 2:15-17).

Reflection:

We must remember that our loyalty to God must be greater than any earthly desires. When we place anything above God in our lives, it becomes a form of idolatry.

Ephesians 5:6

"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on the sons of disobedience."

Explanation:

Paul warns against those who try to deceive Christians with false doctrines or justifications for sin. God's wrath is upon the disobedient, that is, those who persist in living in sin without repentance.

Theological proof:

God is just, and as a righteous Father, He disciplines those who persist in sin (Hebrews 12:6-11). Disobedience continues to be a serious issue for Christians.

Reflection:

We must be alert to false doctrines and practices that attempt to distort the Word of God. Obedience to God is fundamental to our Christian walk.

Ephesians 5:7

"Wherefore be ye not partakers with them;"

Explanation:

Here Paul exhorts Christians not to get involved with those who practice evil, but to separate themselves from such behaviors. Our identity in Christ should lead us to live distinctly.

Theological proof:

We are called to be separate from the world (Romans 12:2) and not to share in its sins (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

Reflection:

Although we live in the world, we are not of the world. Our conduct should reflect our separation from the patterns of sin and immorality.

Ephesians 5:8

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

Explanation:

Paul reminds Christians of their transformation. They were once in darkness, that is, far from God, but now, in Christ, they are light, called to live according to their new identity in Christ.

Theological proof:

Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12), and as His followers we are called to reflect His light (Matthew 5:14-16).

Reflection:

We are light because Christ dwells in us. Our lives should be a reflection of this light, illuminating others around us, in words and actions.

Ephesians 5:9

"For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth."

Explanation:

The “fruit of light” refers to the fruits we manifest in our lives when we walk in obedience to God. These fruits include goodness, righteousness, and truth, virtues that should be visible in our daily walk.

Theological proof:

The Bible says that the fruit of the Spirit includes virtues such as kindness and truth (Galatians 5:22-23). These characteristics are a reflection of a transformed life.

Reflection:

We must be people who practice kindness, seek justice, and live according to God’s truth. This not only impacts our own lives, but also the lives of those around us.

Ephesians 5:10

"Approving what is pleasing to the Lord."

Explanation:

Paul calls us to discern and live in a way that pleases God. This means that our actions, choices, and attitudes must be aligned with God’s will, seeking to please Him in everything we do.

Theological proof:

God desires His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). He also instructs us to live to please Him (Colossians 1:10).

Reflection:

Our entire life should be a pursuit to please God. When we live this way, we are truly holy and set apart for Him.

Ephesians 5:11

"And have no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Explanation:

Paul warns Christians not to engage in the works of darkness (i.e., the sins and immoral behaviors of the world), but rather to reprove them, that is, to denounce them. We are not to tolerate or approve of evil, but rather to point it out and turn away from it.

Theological proof:

The Bible teaches us to abhor evil and to pursue righteousness (Romans 12:9). God hates sin and calls us to live pure and holy lives (1 Peter 1:16).

Reflection:

As Christians, we cannot conform to the practices of the world, but we must be a voice of discernment and righteousness. Our role is to live contrary to sin and to be an example of good works.

Ephesians 5:12

"For it is shameful even to speak of the things which they do in secret."

Explanation:

Paul talks about the secret acts of sin, which are shameful. Sinful actions are often done in the shadows, but that does not make them acceptable. They are, in fact, a cause for shame.

Theological proof:

God sees everything, including what is done in the shadows, and will bring judgment on everything that is hidden (Hebrews 4:13). Jesus teaches that what is hidden will be revealed (Matthew 10:26).

Reflection:

We must remember that even if sin is practiced in secret, God sees it and does not approve. This teaches us

calls for vigilance, so that our actions, even in secret, glorify God.

Ephesians 5:13

"But all things, when they are exposed by the light, become manifest: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light."

Explanation:

Light, symbolizing God's truth and purity, reveals the works of darkness. When we expose sin to God's light, it becomes manifest and evident to all. Light has the power to reveal what is hidden.

Theological proof:

Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12), and He came to bring the truth and reveal what was hidden (Luke 12:2). The Holy Spirit also guides us into the truth (John 16:13).

Reflection:

As Christians, our lives should reflect this light that reveals God's truth. When we live in accordance with the light of Christ, the sin around us is exposed and has no power over us.

Ephesians 5:14

"Therefore he says: Awake, you who sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Explanation:

Paul appeals to those who live in sin, as if they were spiritually "asleep," to wake up. He calls them to arise, for in Christ they will find true light and life.

Theological proof:

Salvation is called awakening from spiritual death (Ephesians 2:1-5). Christ is the one who brings this light to those who were in darkness (John 1:4-9).

Reflection:

This verse is a call to transformation. If we are living in darkness, Christ calls us to His light, giving us new life. We must wake up spiritually and live according to His truth.

Ephesians 5:15

"See then that ye walk diligently, not as fools, but as wise:"

Explanation:

Paul exhorts Christians to live wisely. Instead of acting foolishly and carelessly, we should make careful and wise decisions, making the most of the opportunities God gives us.

Theological proof:

Wisdom comes from God, and He instructs us to live with discernment (Proverbs 2:6). Paul had already taught about the wisdom we should seek (Colossians 1:9).

Reflection:

The Christian life demands wisdom. We must not act impulsively or without thinking, but be strategic, seeking God's guidance in our daily decisions.

Ephesians 5:16

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Explanation:

The idea of "redeeming the time" is to make the most of the opportunities God gives us, living in a way that glorifies Him, because the days are bad, full of challenges and temptations.

Theological proof:

We must be aware of the brevity of life and the importance of using well the time that God gives us (Psalm

90:12). As servants of Christ, we must seize opportunities to do His will.

Reflection:

Time is a gift from God and should be used purposefully. Each day is a chance to live in a way that honors God and brings peace to our hearts, despite the difficulties of the world.

Ephesians 5:17

"For this reason do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Explanation:

Paul calls Christians not to be foolish, but to seek to understand God's will. Living without understanding God's will is a mistake. We must be wise and seek His guidance for our choices.

Theological proof:

Knowing God's will is fundamental to living according to His purpose (Romans 12:2). The Holy Spirit also guides us into God's will (Romans 8:14).

Reflection:

In a world full of distractions, we must make a conscious effort to seek God's direction. Wisdom lies in understanding His will and living in accordance with it.

Ephesians 5:18

"And do not be drunk with wine, for that is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

Explanation:

Paul compares drunkenness, which leads to destruction, with the fullness of the Spirit, which leads to life. Instead of seeking satisfaction in fleeting and destructive things, we should be

filled with the Holy Spirit, which enables us to live correctly.

Theological proof:

Wine is a symbol of worldly pleasure, while the Spirit leads us to holiness (Galatians 5:22-23). To be filled with the Spirit is to live under His constant guidance (Acts 2:4).

Reflection:

What do we seek to satisfy ourselves? We must avoid the temptations of the world that distance us from God and fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit, who leads us to true fulfillment.

Ephesians 5:19

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

Explanation:

Paul exhorts us to use music as a way to express praise and gratitude to God. Worship through singing strengthens our spiritual life and creates fellowship among brothers.

Theological proof:

Music and singing play an important role in the Christian life, being an expression of worship and edification (Colossians 3:16). Jesus and the apostles also sang (Matthew 26:30).

Reflection:

Music is a powerful tool for praise and edification. As we sing and speak about the greatness of God, we are strengthened spiritually and encouraged in faith.

Ephesians 5:20

"Always giving thanks for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"

Explanation:

Paul reminds us to maintain a grateful heart, recognizing that everything we have comes from God. Our gratitude should be a constant, no matter the circumstances.

Theological proof:

Gratitude is fundamental to the Christian life (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It helps us maintain a proper perspective on God's sovereignty and goodness.

Reflection:

At all times, we can find something to thank God for. A grateful life transforms our outlook on life and brings us closer to His heart.

Ephesians 5:21

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Explanation:

Paul talks about the importance of mutual submission, that is, putting the needs of others above our own. Submission is an expression of humility and respect in the body of Christ.

Theological proof:

Mutual submission is a Christian principle, exemplified by Christ and taught throughout Scripture (Philippians 2:3-4). It promotes unity and love among brothers.

Reflection:

In a world that values individualism, Paul's teaching reminds us that true greatness lies in serving others, with humility and in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:22

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

Explanation:

Paul begins this passage by addressing the relationship between husband and wife. Submission here is not a servile or humiliating submission, but a willing willingness to respect and support the husband as part of God's plan for order in marriage. The word "submission" does not imply inferiority, but a role of respect and harmony in the relationship.

Theological proof:

Biblical submission is a principle of order and harmony, not oppression. In Christ, men and women are equal in value before God, but with distinct roles (Galatians 3:28). Submission is seen as a way of reflecting Christ's relationship to the church (1 Corinthians 11:3).

Reflection:

Submission is not about dominating or being dominated, but about working together, with mutual love and respect, for the health and prosperity of the marriage. By submitting to her husband, a woman honors God's command and contributes to a harmonious relationship.

Ephesians 5:23

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body."

Explanation:

Here Paul compares the husband-wife relationship to the relationship between Christ and the church. The husband is described as the "head" of the wife, which implies leadership, responsibility, and care. Christ, as head of the church, is a perfect model of sacrificial and caring leadership.

The husband must act with the same love and sacrifice with which Christ loves the Church.

Theological proof:

Christ is the supreme example of leadership, not authoritarian leadership, but sacrificial leadership (Philippians 2:5-8). The husband's leadership is oriented toward the care and love of his wife, just as Christ cares for the church (1 Corinthians 11:3).

Reflection:

The husband is called to exercise leadership in an unselfish and loving way, without selfishness, and always thinking about the well-being of his wife, just as Christ acts with the Church. This demonstrates that Christian leadership is always marked by humility and service.

Ephesians 5:24

"But as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives should be to their own husbands in everything."

Explanation:

Paul goes on to compare the church's relationship with Christ to that between a husband and wife. Just as the church submits to Christ, so the wife must submit to her husband. This implies mutual trust and cooperation, understanding that submission is not a matter of inferiority, but of respect and order within the marriage.

Theological proof:

The relationship between the church and Christ serves as a model for all relationships of submission within the family. The church is the bride of Christ, and He loves, cares for, and leads the church sacrificially (Ephesians 5:25).

Reflection:

Submission should be seen as an expression of trust, not oppression. When a woman

submits to her husband, she does this as a reflection of her trust in God and the order He has established for marriage.

Ephesians 5:25

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,"

Explanation:

Paul instructs husbands to love their wives with the same sacrificial love that Christ has for the church. Christ's love for the church is deep, unconditional, and sacrificial. A husband should be willing to do the same for his wife, putting her needs and well-being above his own desires.

Theological proof:

Christ demonstrated the greatest love by dying for the church, which is the basis of all our faith (John 15:13). A husband's love should be as deep and sacrificial as Christ's (1 John 3:16).

Reflection:

The husband is called to love with a sacrificial love that puts others before self. This kind of love is a reflection of the nature of Christ and is essential to a healthy marriage. When a husband loves in this way, he creates an environment where his wife can feel safe and loved.

Ephesians 5:26

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,"

Explanation:

Paul describes the husband's role in helping his wife grow spiritually. Just as Christ purifies the church through His Word, the husband has the role of building up

spiritually the wife, helping her grow in faith. The "washing of water by the word" is a metaphor for the process of sanctification, which involves teaching, encouragement, and spiritual support.

Theological proof:

God's Word has the power to purify and sanctify believers (John 17:17). Christ sanctifies the church by His Word, and the husband should engage in a spiritual life that helps his wife grow spiritually (1 Peter 3:7).

Reflection:

Christian marriage is a spiritual partnership where husband and wife help each other grow in faith. The husband has the responsibility to support his wife spiritually, being a leader who encourages her to grow closer to God.

Ephesians 5:27

"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and blameless."

Explanation:

Paul continues by talking about how Christ purifies the church, with the goal of presenting it as a perfect and blameless church. The husband should also work to make his wife a spiritually mature and blameless woman according to God's standards.

Theological proof:

God desires the church to be pure and without blemish (Revelation 19:7-8). The husband should have the same goal of building up his wife in purity and holiness.

Reflection:

Marriage is a means of sanctification. The husband has the privilege and responsibility of helping his wife to

grow in purity and Christlikeness, becoming more like Him every day.

Ephesians 5:28

"So husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."

Explanation:

Paul here emphasizes that the husband must love his wife as he loves his own body. This means that the love the husband has for his wife must be so deep that he treats her with the same consideration and care that he gives himself.

Theological proof:

Loving your wife as your own body is a reflection of Christ's love for the church. Jesus was concerned about the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the church (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Reflection:

If husbands would treat their wives with the same care and consideration they have for themselves, many problems in marriage would be solved. Love is the basis for mutual care and prosperity in a relationship.

Ephesians 5:29

"For no one ever hated his own flesh, but feeds and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church."

Explanation:

Paul explains that no one hates his own body, but cares for it and feeds it. In the same way, a husband should care for his wife, for she is a part of his own life. Christ cares for the Church with this same zeal, feeding and sustaining it.

Theological proof:

Christ cares for the church with affection and dedication, and the husband should imitate this care. The relationship between husband and wife is a deep union, reflecting the unity that exists between Christ and the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

Reflection:

Mutual care is essential in any relationship. A husband should care for his wife's well-being just as he would care for his own body. This kind of care strengthens the bond in marriage.

Ephesians 5:30

"For we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones."

Explanation:

Paul explains that husband and wife are one, just as Christ and the church are. They are "members of one body" of one another, which means they are inseparable and should treat each other with great respect and love.

Theological proof:

The union in marriage reflects the unity between Christ and the church (1 Corinthians 12:27). Marriage is a deep and sacred union where spouses become one flesh (Genesis 2:24).

Reflection:

Marriage is more than a physical relationship; it is a spiritual union. As members of each other's body, husband and wife are to work together in unity and harmony to fulfill God's purpose for marriage.

Ephesians 5:31

"For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

Explanation:

This verse reminds us of the fundamental principle of marriage: the union between a man and a woman, who become "one flesh." This means that marriage is a deep covenant that requires commitment and dedication.

Theological proof:

Jesus quotes this verse in Matthew 19:5, reaffirming the importance of the union in marriage as an indissoluble relationship.

Reflection:

Marriage is a new family, and the relationship between husband and wife should be the priority. This commitment should be reflected in daily actions of love, respect and mutual care.

Ephesians 5:32

"This is a great mystery, but I say these things concerning Christ and the church."

Explanation:

Paul explains that the relationship between husband and wife is a "great mystery" that symbolizes the relationship between Christ and the Church. Marriage, therefore, is not just a human affair, but a spiritual reflection of the Christ's relationship with believers.

Theological proof:

The mystery of marriage is how it reflects Christ's union with the church (Revelation 19:7-9). Christ's love for the church is the ultimate model for all marriages.

Reflection:

Marriage is an opportunity to reflect Christ's unconditional love for the Church. Every aspect of the marriage relationship should point to the beauty of this spiritual union.

Ephesians 5:33

"Therefore each of you must love his wife as himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

Explanation:

Paul summarizes the relationship between husband and wife in two fundamental principles: the husband is to love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife is to respect her husband. Love and respect are essential to a healthy marriage.

Theological proof:

Mutual love and respect are fundamental principles in a marital relationship, as Jesus demonstrated in His relationship with the Church (Ephesians 5:25-29).

Reflection:

The foundation of a strong marriage is sacrificial love and mutual respect. When a husband and wife love and respect each other in this way, their marriage reflects the glory of God.

Final Reflection on Ephesians 5

This passage from Ephesians 5 offers us a profound and transformative portrait of Christian marriage, where Paul teaches us that marriage goes beyond a physical or emotional union, but is a spiritual representation of the relationship between Christ and the Church. The relationship between husband and wife should be marked by love, respect, sacrifice, and mutual care.

When a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church, he demonstrates a sacrificial love, willing to put her well-being ahead of his own. He is called to lead with humility and zeal, caring for her both spiritually and emotionally. On the other hand, a wife, when she submits to her husband, is not being submissive.

in a passive way, but is uniting with her husband with respect and trust, contributing to the harmony and unity of the marriage.

The key to a healthy and lasting marriage is the mutuality of these principles: sacrificial love and mutual respect. Husband and wife should work together with a commitment to build each other up, helping each other grow in holiness, integrity, and faith. The true beauty of Christian marriage is that it reflects the unity and love that Christ has for His church.

Ultimately, Ephesians 5 reminds us that marriage is not just about two individuals, but about a greater purpose—to glorify God and reflect His unconditional love, both in the marriage relationship and in the Christian community. May we live these principles, building marriages that not only build our hearts but also are a powerful witness of Christ's love to the world.

Study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians - Chapter 6 (Verse by Verse Explanation)

Ephesians 6 addresses the importance of practical Christian living in various areas, including family relationships, obedience to God, and spiritual warfare. Paul instructs us on how to live in a way that is consistent with our faith, especially within the context of our families, and emphasizes the need to put on the "armor of God" to face spiritual difficulties. He also highlights the importance of prayer and intercession, even in adversity. The chapter concludes with an exhortation to perseverance, strength in the Lord, and bold proclamation of the gospel.

Ephesians 6:1

Verse

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

Explanation

This verse is a direct exhortation to children. The word "obey" implies respectful and honorable obedience to parents. Children's obedience is a divine command, "in the Lord," that is, it is an obedience that pleases God because it is in line with His will. The word "righteous" here refers to the fact that this obedience is in accordance with divine justice as set forth in the commandments.

Theological evidence

In Exodus 20:12, the Fifth Commandment commands, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God is giving you." The principle of honoring one's parents is central to Scripture and is reinforced in several passages,

as in Colossians 3:20, which also exhorts children to obey their parents.

Reflection

This verse highlights the importance of an orderly and harmonious family life. Obeying one's parents is not only an act of respect, but also an act that honors God. When children learn to obey their parents, they are being trained to obey God, establishing a pattern of authority in their lives.

Ephesians 6:2

Verse

"Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise."

Explanation

This verse repeats what was already said in the Old Testament, emphasizing that honoring one's parents is not just an act of obedience, but a commandment with a promise of blessing. The promise here is that children who honor their parents will live long and prosper, as it says in Exodus 20:12.

Theological evidence

The promise given in the Old Testament (Exodus 20:12) is reinforced in the New Testament. In Ephesians 6, Paul refers to this promise, which is also mentioned in Deuteronomy 5:16. The idea is that honoring one's parents creates a solid foundation for one's children's lives, both materially and spiritually.

Reflection

Honoring our parents is not just a temporary favor, but has lasting repercussions. God promises to bless children who fulfill this commandment with a fuller and more peaceful life. This promise teaches us the importance of

respect within the family as a basis for society.

Ephesians 6:3

Verse

"That it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth."

Explanation

Here the promise that accompanies the commandment to honor one's parents is made explicit. The result of this obedience is a long and successful life. "Go well" implies prosperity and success in various areas of life, such as health, finances, relationships, and inner peace.

Theological evidence

In Deuteronomy 5:16, the promise of long life by honoring one's parents is also highlighted. This reflects the direct relationship between living according to God's principles and reaping positive fruits in life.

Reflection

When we obey the command to honor our parents, we are doing something that directly impacts our future life. While the promise of a long life is not guaranteed in every case of obedience, the principle is clear: a life aligned with God's principles tends to bring blessings and favor, including longevity and well-being.

Ephesians 6:4

Verse

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Explanation

Here Paul gives parents guidance not to provoke their children to anger. This means that parents should not

should not be excessively harsh or unfair when educating their children. Discipline, therefore, must be done in a balanced, loving and fair way, always based on the Lord's teachings.

Theological evidence

In Colossians 3:21, Paul teaches the same idea, saying, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, or they will become discouraged." Christian discipline is always loving, guided by the example of God, who disciplines us with patience and love.

Reflection

Children should be educated wisely, avoiding any form of abuse or excessive harshness. Parents who educate with love, patience and according to God's principles contribute to the healthy emotional and spiritual development of their children.

Ephesians 6:5

Verse

"Servants, obey those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of your heart, as unto Christ."

Explanation

This verse exhorts servants or employees to obey their masters or employers with sincerity, respect, and dedication, as if they were serving Christ Himself. The word "fear and trembling" here is used to show the seriousness and reverence that one should have in fulfilling this responsibility.

Theological evidence

In Colossians 3:22-24, Paul gives a similar exhortation, reminding servants to work "as for the Lord, not for men." The principle is that by serving others, we are actually serving God.

Reflection

This verse reminds us that our work and service should not be solely focused on material rewards or human recognition, but should be done with the awareness that we serve Christ in everything we do. This elevates our work to a spiritual level of purpose and dedication.

Ephesians 6:6

Verse

"Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."

Explanation

This verse reinforces what was said in the previous one, highlighting that the true motivation for service should not be human recognition, but God's will. "Serving in plain sight" refers to behavior that only appears when there is an audience, while "doing it from the heart" means serving sincerely, with a motivation that pleases God.

Theological evidence

In Colossians 3:23-24, Paul again instructs Christians to work wholeheartedly, as if they were working for God. The Christian's motivation should always be directed toward serving the Lord.

Reflection

We often strive to please the people around us, but true obedience to God requires that we do everything with a sincere heart, regardless of whether we are observed or not. This attitude reflects a genuine commitment to God's will, not to personal interests.

Ephesians 6:7

Verse

"With good will, serving as to the Lord, and not to men."

Explanation

This verse emphasizes the importance of serving willingly, as if we were directly serving God and not people. This means that we should approach all our tasks with a spirit of joy and genuine service, not out of obligation or expectation of reward.

Theological evidence

This attitude of serving as unto the Lord is reinforced in several places in Scripture. In 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul teaches that we should do all things to the glory of God. Proper motivation is essential to any Christian service.

Reflection

When we do things with an attitude of serving God, our motivation is purified. This completely changes the way we face daily challenges, making our lives an offering of praise and worship to God.

Ephesians 6:8

Verse

"Knowing that whatever good work each one does, this he will receive from the Lord, whether he is slave or free."

Explanation

In this verse, Paul reminds Christians that although service to others may go unnoticed by men, God does not forget any act of kindness or service rendered. He rewards all work well done, whether the worker is a servant or free, without any distinction.

Theological evidence

In Colossians 3:24, Paul also says, "Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance." God is just and will reward those who serve with dedication and faith.

Reflection

It doesn't matter if what we do goes unnoticed by others; God sees and rewards our faithfulness. This verse reminds us that our service has eternal value and that the true reward comes from God.

Ephesians 6:9

Verse

"And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Lord both is in heaven, and there is no respect of persons with him."

Explanation

Paul instructs masters (bosses) to treat their employees fairly and without threats. They must also act with respect and responsibility, because, just like the employees, they have a Master in heaven who will judge them.

Theological evidence

God is no respecter of persons, which means that both employers and employees must be held to the same standard of fairness and respect. In 1 Peter 1:17, it says that "if you call on him as Father who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourself throughout the time of your stay here in fear."

Reflection

This verse teaches us that all of us, regardless of our social position or authority, are accountable to God for our actions. God expects us to treat

others with respect, fairness, and love, reflecting His character in all relationships.

Ephesians 6:10

Verse

"Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

Explanation

This verse introduces the section on "the arm of God" (which follows in the next few verses). Paul calls Christians to be strong in God, not in their own strength. He emphasizes that in order to overcome spiritual difficulties and struggles, it is necessary to depend on God's power.

Theological evidence

In Philippians 4:13, Paul states, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Spiritual strength does not come from ourselves, but from God, and we need to seek His strength daily.

Reflection

The spiritual battles we face daily can only be overcome with the power of God. We must be strengthened in His grace, recognizing that we cannot resist evil alone. Our dependence on the Lord is the key to living a victorious life.

Ephesians 6:11

Verse

"Put on the complete armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Explanation

This verse begins the section that talks about the armor of God, which Paul uses as a metaphor for

describe the spiritual resources that God offers Christians to face spiritual struggles. The verb “to put on” means to intentionally and completely put on the armor. The purpose is to resist the “snares” of the devil, that is, the traps and deceptive strategies that he uses to try to lead Christians away from the path of truth.

Theological evidence

In 1 Peter 5:8, the Bible warns us about the devil, saying, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, prowls about, seeking whom he may devour.” The devil’s wiles are his subtle attempts to draw us away from God. The armor of God is the spiritual defense that strengthens us to resist.

Reflection

This verse teaches us that we cannot face spiritual battles with our own strength or human strategies. We need an armor that God provides us, which enables us to resist the enemy and

stand firm in faith. Each piece of this armor has a purpose and prepares us for the spiritual challenges we face daily.

Ephesians 6:12

Verse

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of the darkness of this world, against the spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places."

Explanation

Here Paul makes it clear that our struggle is not against people or physical enemies (blood and flesh), but against evil spiritual forces. The words “principalities,” “powers,” and “rulers of darkness” refer to different categories of spiritual beings who operate under the control of the devil and have

the power to influence the world and people for evil. These spiritual forces work on high and hidden levels, in what Paul calls "heavenly places," that is, a spiritual sphere that goes beyond what we see.

Theological evidence

In 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, Paul also reminds us that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God for pulling down strongholds." Spiritual warfare is not physical, but involves forces operating in the spiritual realm. Ephesians 2:2 also speaks of "the prince of the power of the air," referring to Satan.

Reflection

This verse teaches us that the challenges we face in the Christian life are not just physical or visible, but involve a spiritual battle that often manifests itself in invisible ways. We cannot fight in natural ways, but we must be equipped with the armor of God to combat evil on spiritual levels. This requires constant vigilance and prayer.

Ephesians 6:13

Verse

"Therefore take up the complete armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand."

Explanation

This verse repeats the need to put on "the whole armor of God," with the emphasis that it is needed to withstand "in the evil day." The "evil day" can refer to times of temptation, persecution, or spiritual hardship when the Christian is called to resist evil. The purpose of the armor is not only to resist, but also to remain firm, "unmovable," even after the battle.

Theological evidence

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, we see that God offers us help to resist temptation: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able." Victory is possible because God gives us the means to stand firm.

Reflection

Spiritual battles are inevitable, but God's promise is that if we are clothed with His armor, we will be able to resist and stand firm. In times of trial, our confidence should be not in our own strength, but in the strength of God, who enables us to stand firm against adversity.

Ephesians 6:14

Verse

"Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness."

Explanation

Paul begins by detailing the armor of God, and the first element is "truth." To gird one's loins with truth means to be prepared, with one's mind and heart aligned with God's truth. The "breastplate of righteousness" refers to the protection that God's righteousness offers Christians. Righteousness here can be either the moral righteousness of the Christian or the justification we receive in Christ.

Theological evidence

In John 8:32, Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." God's truth is the solid foundation on which we must rest our lives. In 1 John 1:9, Christ's righteousness is essential for our protection: "If confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."

Reflection

Truth is the foundation of our faith and protection. When we live according to God's truth, our minds are freed from deception and lies. God's righteousness protects us from spiritual accusations and attacks from the enemy, giving us security and steadfastness in Christ.

Ephesians 6:15

Verse

"And have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

Explanation

The preparation of the gospel of peace is the good news of reconciliation with God that Christians must bring to the world. Putting on our feet this preparation means being ready to share the message of the gospel, which brings peace among men and between men and God. This peace gives us stability to walk and advance in the spiritual battle.

Theological evidence

In Romans 10:15, Paul quotes Isaiah: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of peace." The gospel is the means by which we find peace, and this peace allows us to face any adversity with confidence.

Reflection

Being "shoes" with the gospel of peace makes us bearers of that peace. It reminds us that our mission as Christians is not only to live peace, but also to share it with others, being messengers of the reconciliation that Christ has brought us.

Ephesians 6:16

Verse

"In everything, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Explanation

The "shield of faith" is trust in God, which protects us against the attacks of the enemy. The "fiery darts of the evil one" refer to the temptations, lies, doubts and spiritual temptations that the devil launches against us. Faith in God and in His word acts as a shield that protects us from all these attacks.

Theological evidence

In 1 John 5:4, it says, "For whatever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." Faith is a powerful weapon to resist evil and stand firm in the truth.

Reflection

Faith is a shield that protects us from spiritual attacks. By trusting in God, we can resist the devil's lies and temptations, believing that He is faithful to protect us and give us victory.

Ephesians 6:17

Verse

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Explanation

The helmet of salvation protects the Christian's mind and thoughts, reminding us of our security and identity in Christ. The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, is the only offensive weapon in the armor, used to defeat the enemy's attacks. It represents the Scriptures, which give us power to face lies and temptation.

Theological evidence

In Hebrews 4:12, the word of God is described as "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword." Salvation is our protection from condemnation, and the word of God is our weapon to fight evil.

Reflection

Salvation in Christ is our assurance and protection. God's Word is our sword, which must be used wisely to combat lies and temptations. By knowing and declaring the Scriptures, we can resist evil and live in power and victory.

Ephesians 6:18

Verse

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and being watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Explanation

Prayer is fundamental in spiritual warfare. Paul instructs us to pray at all times, with all forms of prayer (prayer, supplication, intercession), and to do so with perseverance. Praying in the Spirit means being guided by the Holy Spirit as we pray. In addition, we are to intercede for other believers, strengthening them in their spiritual battles.

Theological evidence

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul instructs us to "pray without ceasing." In Romans 8:26, the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness by interceding for us in prayer.

Reflection

Prayer is our direct connection to God and one of the most powerful ways to strengthen ourselves spiritually.

Through it, we can resist the temptations and attacks of the enemy, while interceding for other brothers in faith.

Ephesians 6:19

Verse

"And for me, that it may be given unto me to open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel."

Explanation

Paul asks the Ephesians to pray for him that he may have boldness in proclaiming the gospel. He is in prison when he writes this letter, but he still wants to be steadfast in preaching the "mystery of the gospel," which refers to God's plan of salvation revealed through Christ. The "mystery" is not something hidden, but something that has now been clearly revealed to all, especially to the Gentiles, as part of God's plan.

Theological evidence

In Colossians 4:3-4, Paul also asks for prayer that he may have the opportunity to preach boldly: "Praying also for us, that God would open to us a door of utterance, to declare the mystery of Christ." Boldness in preaching the gospel is a recurring theme in Paul's letters.

Reflection

Prayer for boldness in preaching the gospel is essential. Even in the face of difficulties and limitations, such as Paul's imprisonment, the call to proclaim the good news remains firm. We must always seek to be bold and faithful in our mission to share the gospel, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:20

Verse

"For which I am an ambassador in chains, that in Christ I may be bold, as I ought to speak."

Explanation

Paul sees himself as an "ambassador in chains," that is, he is a representative of Christ even while in prison. He continues to affirm that his mission does not change because of his imprisonment. Even in difficult circumstances, he is called to be bold and faithful in fulfilling his mission of proclaiming the gospel.

Theological evidence

In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul describes himself as "an ambassador for Christ," bringing the message of reconciliation. He knew that regardless of his imprisonment, he would continue to be an ambassador for Christ. He also talks about the courage it takes to preach in Philippians 1:14.

Reflection

Paul's imprisonment did not stop him from fulfilling his mission. The message here is that no matter what situation we find ourselves in, we must be faithful and bold in sharing the gospel. God calls us to be representatives of Christ in all circumstances.

Ephesians 6:21

Verse

"So that you also may know my things and what I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you."

Explanation

Paul mentions Tychicus, one of his trusted collaborators, who would take the letter to the Ephesians and inform them of Paul's situation. Tychicus was described by Paul

as "a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord." He was a trustworthy person who shared Paul's commitment to the gospel.

Theological evidence

In Acts 20:4, Tychicus is mentioned as part of the traveling party that accompanied Paul. He was a well-known and respected figure in the Christian churches, and was trusted to convey important information.

Reflection

This verse reminds us of the importance of partnership in ministry. Even in prison, Paul had faithful collaborators who continued the work with him. In ministry, it is essential to have people we can trust to help us fulfill our mission and maintain communication with others.

Ephesians 6:22

Verse

"Whom I have sent unto you for this very purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and might comfort your hearts."

Explanation

Paul emphasizes that Tychicus was sent to comfort the Ephesians, as well as to convey information about his situation. The comfort here is not just a word of emotional comfort, but also a spiritual reinforcement, helping the Ephesians to remain firm in their faith despite the difficulties Paul was facing.

Theological evidence

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Paul speaks of God as "the Father of mercies and God of all comfort," who comforts us in our troubles. Comfort is an important aspect of the Christian life because it helps us maintain our hope in the midst of adversity.

Reflection

In difficult times, such as the one Paul faced, comfort is an important spiritual gift. We should be sources of encouragement to one another, always ready to offer comfort and hope, just as Paul did through Tychicus.

Ephesians 6:23

Verse

"Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Explanation

Paul closes this letter with a blessing of peace, love, and faith. He wants the Ephesians to experience the peace that comes from God, the love that is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and the faith that is the foundation of the entire Christian life. This peace is a deep, spiritual peace that can only be found in Christ.

Theological evidence

In Philippians 4:7, Paul also speaks of the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding." In 1 John 4:16, the Bible speaks of God's love: "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God."

Reflection

Peace, love, and faith are essential in the Christian life. These three elements are what we should seek and share with others, for they are the foundations that sustain us in our walk with Christ. This blessing from Paul is a reminder that the Christian life is founded on these pillars.

Ephesians 6:24

Verse

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."

Explanation

Paul concludes his letter with a wish for grace for all who love Christ in sincerity. The word "sincerity" here denotes a genuine love, without hypocrisy. Paul desires that all Christians experience God's grace, which is God's unmerited favor, through faith in Christ.

Theological evidence

In 2 Timothy 4:8, Paul speaks of the "crown of righteousness" that the Lord will give "to all who love his appearing." Sincere love for Christ is what characterizes the true Christian, and God's grace is the means by which we receive salvation.

Reflection

This verse reminds us of the importance of loving Christ sincerely. Genuine love for Jesus should be the driving force of our Christian life, and God's grace is what sustains us. May we live in a way that demonstrates our true love for Christ.

Final Reflection on Ephesians 6

Paul's letter to the Ephesians, especially in the last verses of chapter 6, reminds us of the importance of united Christian community, constant prayer, and boldness in proclaiming the gospel, even in times of difficulty. Paul, imprisoned and surrounded by adversity, remains steadfast in his mission, and teaches us to be courageous, to trust in God's grace, and to be sources of comfort to one another.

The final reflection of this chapter invites us to reflect on what it means to live as "ambassadors for Christ," representing the gospel boldly and sincerely,

regardless of the circumstances. We are also called to live in love and peace, with an unshakable faith that sustains us and connects us to one another as members of the body of Christ.

Just as Paul asked for prayer for his boldness and affirmed his trust in Christ, we must recognize the need for mutual prayer and spiritual strengthening in community. The gospel is not just a message to be proclaimed, but a life to be lived, marked by peace, love, and faith. May we, as a church, embrace these principles and live in a way that honors Christ in all our words and actions.