

MATURE CHRISTIAN LIVING
EPHESIANS 4:14-24

WE ARE IN EPHESIANS CHAPTER 4 THIS WEEK AND WE ARE TALKING ABOUT INSTRUCTION, DISCIPLINE, MATURITY, AND UNITY AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST. CHEYANNE DID A GREAT JOB LAST WEEK TALKING ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND THE OFFICES THAT GOD ORDAINS IN HIS CHURCH. THIS WEEK WE WILL SEE THAT THE APOSTLE PAUL SHINES THE LIGHT DIRECTLY ON THE CHURCH OR AS I LIKE TO SAY, PAUL PULLS THE COVERS OFF THE CHURCH AND CHALLENGES EVERY BELIEVER TO EXAMINE THEIR WALK. THERE IS MUCH GOING ON IN EPHESUS, FALSE DOCTRINE BEING TAUGHT AND HALF TRUTHS ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH ARE BEING INJECTED INTO BABY CHRISTIANS CAUSING TURMOIL WITHIN THE BODY. THE APOSTLE PAUL HOLDS BACK NO SPIRITUAL PUNCHES AS HE WRITES THIS LETTER AND NEITHER WILL I AS I PREACH THE TRUTH TO YOU TODAY. I'M GOING TO REFRESH A LITTLE OF WHAT WAS SHARED LAST WEEK FOR CONTEXT BECAUSE PAUL IS THE KING OF LONG SENTENCES. LET'S PICK IT UP IN CHAPTER 4 VERSE 11 AND MAY THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES DRAW US ALL DEEPER INTO CHRIST TODAY. AMEN?

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge

of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

THE MAIN GOAL OF THE CHURCH IS NOT EVANGELISM (EVEN THOUGH THAT IS IMPORTANT). IT IS TO BE CONFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST AND TO EQUIP THE SAINTS TO SERVE OTHERS

Romans 8:29 NIV

²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

“THE FAITH” MORE THAN JUST YOUR BELIEF SYSTEM, IT IS THE COMPLETE DOCTRINAL TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL. AAAAAAND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD

WE BECOME MATURE CHRISTIANS WITH KNOWLEDGE + OBEDIENCE + TIME

COMPLETE UNITY WILL FINALLY COME WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, UNTIL THEN, PLEASE BE PATIENT, GOD IS NOT DONE WITH US YET

Ephesians 4:14 NIV

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

IT IS CRUCIAL TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE: MANY OF GOD'S KIDS GET DERAILED AND DUPED BY FALSE DOCTRINE DRAPED IN CHARISMA, THE ABILITY TO STAY GROUNDED DURING TRIALS, THE ABILITY TO DISCERN TRUTH FROM LIES OR HALF TRUTHS FROM THE TRUTH

CUNNING/KYBEIA/TRICKERY
CRAFTINESS/PANOURGIA/DECEPTION, DUPLICITY

SCHEMING/METHODEIA/STRATEGY

Hebrews 5:12-14 NIV

¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

YOUR PERSONAL STUDY OF THE WORD IS CRUCIAL TO YOUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY, WHICH PROVIDES PEACE, WISDOM, STRENGTH, AND UNSHAKEABLE FAITH

Ephesians 4:15-16 NIV

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by

every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

JUST AS A PHYSICAL BODY GROWS, WE GROW IN THE SPIRIT
SPEAKING THE WORD OF GOD TO EACH OTHER AND OVER
EACH OTHER IN LOVE

Ephesians 4:17 NIV

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

PAUL IS EMPHATICALLY SAYING “THUS SAYITH THE LORD”
WE CAN’T LIVE LIKE WE USED TO LIVE BEFORE WE KNEW HIM

FUTILITY/MATAIOTES/EMPTINESS

Ephesians 4:18-19 NIV

¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

THEY ARE IGNORANT TO THE THINGS OF GOD BECAUSE THEIR
HEARTS ARE LIKE CONCRETE

REJECT GOD ENOUGH TIMES AND HE WILL HARDEN THE HEART
CREATING SPIRITUAL BANKRUPCY

WILLFUL HARDENING, JUDICIAL HARDENING

BEING BORN AGAIN MEANS A NEW SENSITIVITY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT'S CONVICTION, GUIDING, REVELATION, AND PRESENCE

Romans 1:28-31 NIV

²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

WE MUST LIVE A LIFE OF REPENTANCE AND COMMUNION WITH GOD SO THAT OUR SENSITIVITY IS ALWAYS FRESH
THE WORD OF GOD SOFTENS THE DECIETFULLY WICKED HEART

Ephesians 4:20-24 NIV

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

A HEALTHY CHURCH PREACHES THE WHOLE COUNCIL OF GOD
THE GOSPEL IS NOT YOUR BEST LIFE NOW

PUT OFF/APOTITHEMI/GET RID OF

KEY PHRASE, “TO BE MADE NEW IN THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR MINDS”

Romans 12:2 NIV

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

PICK UP YOUR CROSS DAILY SO YOU CAN CRUCIFY YOUR OLD SELF DAILY AND LIVE IN THE SPIRIT FOLLOWING JESUS

Ephesians 4:25-28 NIV

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

NO MORE LYING

NOTICE: THE SCRIPTURES DON’T SAY “DO NOT GET ANGRY” WHEN ANGRY, REMEMBER YOU ARE CHRIST’S REPRESENTATIVE DEAL WITH YOUR ANGER QUICKLY, FIGHT FOR PEACE WITHIN

DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL A FOOTHOLD
NO MORE STEALING, WORK AND BE GENEROUS

Ephesians 4:29-32 NIV

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

WE GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN WE CUSS AT EACH OTHER
AND TEAR EACH OTHER DOWN, WHEN WE SIN IN OUR ANGER
AND FIGHT, SLANDER EACH OTHER, AND HOLD GRUDGES

GOD WILL FORGIVE US WHEN WE REPENT BUT WE MUST
ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN, ASK FOR FORGIVENESS, AND FIGHT
AGAINST THE TEMPTATION TO REPEAT THE SAME BEHAVIORS
OVER AND OVER

WE MUST RENEW OUR MINDS WITH GOD'S WORD AND OBEY
IT

IF YOUR HEART IS HARD IN A CERTAIN AREA, ADMIT IT, ASK FOR
FORGIVENESS, THEN ASK GOD TO SOFTEN YOUR HEART AGAIN

END