

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 1 – Unity, Diversity & Community Ephesians 4:1-13

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-13
This brings us to the half-way point of the letter.
Part 1 was all about - D _ _ _ _ _
 T _ _ _ _ _
 R _ _ _ _ _
Part 2 is all about - D _ _ _ _
 P _ _ _ _ _
 R _ _ _ _ _
2. When God created Adam He created an I _ _ _ _ _
When God created Eve He created S _ _ _ _ _ , C _ _ _ _ _
3. The answer to the fallen individual is C _ _ _ _ _
The answer to fallen society is the C _ _ _ _ _
4. What are the two things that Paul is talking about in these verses?
 - a. U _ _ _ _ in the C _ _ _ _ _
 - b. D _ _ _ _ _ in the C _ _ _ _ _
5. Read again and consider verses 1 - 6
Here Paul is saying that there is:
 - I One B _ _ _ _
 - II One S _ _ _ _ _
 - III One H _ _ _ _
 - IV One L _ _ _ _
 - V One F _ _ _ _ _
 - VI One B _ _ _ _ _
 - VII. One G _ _ and F _ _ _ _ _ of all
6. Although we may all be “Christian”, we are not content with that. Consider some of the adjectives that we use to distinguish ourselves:

- i. E _____ Christian
- ii. C _____ E _____ Christian
- iii. B _____ -B _____ C _____ E _____
Christian
- iv. R _____ B _____ -B _____ C _____
E _____ Christian
- v. C _____ R _____ B _____ -B _____
C _____ E _____ Christian
- vi. P _____ -M _____ C _____ R _____ B _____ -
B _____ C _____ E _____ Christian
- vii. K _____ O _____ P _____ -M _____ C _____ R _____
B _____ -B _____ C _____ E _____
Christian

7. What should our position be on D _____ ?

In E _____ B _____ we have U _____ - Ephesians 4:4-6

In N _____ -E _____ B _____ we have L _____

- Romans 14:1,4 ,12,22

In A _____ our B _____ we show C _____

8. Look again closely at verse 1. What does this tell us?

9. Look again closely at verse 2. What does this tell us about the qualities that should characterize our walk?

- a. We should be H _____
- b. We should be G _____
- c. We should be P _____
- d. We should show L _____

10. Read again closely Ephesians 4:7-10. What is this saying to us?

FINAL THOUGHTS

Ecumenical Unity is:

We want our Unity to be Uniformity

We want our unity to be external as well as internal

We want it to be organizational as well as spiritual

Spiritual Unity is:

Christ as One with the Father

We as One with Christ

Therefore we are One with each other

As a final exercise consider some of the ways
in which there is complimentary diversity in the Body of Christ.

Cultural
Spiritual Gifting
Temperament
Experience
Background
Outlook

We all need each other if we are to fulfill the role assigned to us
in a spirit of interdependence.

Learn to identify these qualities in others,
do not be envious of them,
and allow each other to flourish in the area that they have been gifted

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 1 – Unity, Diversity & Community Ephesians 4:1-13

1. Part 1 was all about - **DOCTRINE**
THEOLOGY
RESOURCES
Part 2 is all about - **DUTY**
PRACTICE
RESPONSIBILITIES
2. When God created Adam He created an **INDIVIDUAL**
When God created Eve He created **SOCIETY, COMMUNITY**
3. The answer to the fallen individual is **CHRIST**
The answer to fallen society is the **CHURCH**
4. a. **UNITY** in the **COMMUNITY**
b. **DIVERSITY** in the **COMMUNITY**
5. I One **Body**
II One **Spirit**
III One **Hope**
IV One **Lord**
V One **Faith**
VI One **Baptism**
VII One **God** and **Father** of all
6. 1) **EVANGELICAL** Christian
2) **CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL** Christian
3) **BIBLE-BELIEVING CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL** Christian
4) **REFORMED BIBLE-BELIEVING CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL** Christian
5) **CHARISMATIC, REFORMED BIBLE-BELIEVING CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL** Christian
6) **PRE-MILLENIAL, CHARISMATIC, REFORMED BIBLE-BELIEVING CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL** Christian
7) **KJB ONLY, PRE-MILLENIAL, CHARISMATIC, REFORMED BIBLE-BELIEVING CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL** Christian

Call that UNITY? If it wasn't so tragic it would almost be funny
7. What should our position be on **DOCTRINE**?
In **ESSENTIAL BELIEFS** we have **UNITY** Ephesians 4:4-6
In **NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEFS** have **LIBERTY** Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

In **ALL** our **BELIEFS** we show **CHARITY**

8. We are to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Our Christian life is a 'walk' not a 'stand'.
Some people 'stand for this, and stand for that', but there is no movement so they stagnate,

9.
 - a. We should be **HUMBLE** This is our disposition towards ourselves.
 - b. We should be **GENTLE**. This is our disposition towards others.
 - c. We should be **PATIENT**. This is our disposition towards our circumstances.
 - d. We should show **LOVE**. This is our disposition to People and the world at large.

10. There is much contained in these verses, but what we want to highlight here is that it is God who has given out His gifts to His church as being the Body of Christ.

Every part of this 'body' is different; there is huge diversity, but when it is all put together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, submitted to His will and purposes, it becomes a mighty, effective tool for good in this desperate world in which we live.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 2 – How A Healthy Church Grows Ephesians 4:10-16

1. Read Ephesians 4:10-16
Consider: How do you define a 'healthy church'?
Is it: a. The N _____ of P _____ A _____ ?
b. Great P _____ ?
c. Compelling V _____ ?
2. In This passage Paul takes us through 5 stages that make a church great.
In this study we will look at two of them. For Stage 1 read again Ephesians 4:11
Identify the 5 people groups. A _____
P _____
E _____
P _____
T _____
3. What do these people constitute to the church?
They are the G _____ of the Risen Christ to the Church.
4. Read and consider Ephesians 4:7. What is this reaffirming?

5. Paul also specifies certain P _____ L _____ gifts in a healthy church.
6. Let's take a closer look at APOSTLES.
Read and consider the following verses:
John 13:16, John 17:18, 2 Corinthians 8:23
7. Other than the original 12 Apostles there were very few others who were given that title. Can you name some of them?
P _____, J _____, B _____
8. What were the two special qualifications to be designated an Apostle?
a. They were E _____ of C _____

Consider: 1 Corinthians 9:1 and 1 Corinthians 15:7-8

b. They were M _____ by S _____ and W _____

Consider: 2 Corinthians 12:12

9. What are the particular functions of an Apostle?

a. E _____ C _____ T _____

Consider: Acts 4:42

b. E _____ the C _____ C _____

Consider: Ephesians 2:20

10. Do we have any Apostles in the church today?

If you say 'yes', who are they? (Be careful: this is a trick question)

11. What about the Prophets? What is their function? Consider 2 Peter 1:20-21

12. What are the other three 'gifts to the church', and what function do they perform?

E _____ - S _____ W _____

P _____ - S _____ C _____

T _____ - S _____ B _____

13. What is the Second Stage to a Healthy Church that we will look at today? Consider again Ephesians 4:12

To P _____ God's people for W _____ of S _____

14. Remember; this is to prepare YOU for works of service.

So what is the work of the Apostles, prophets etc.?

a. They P _____ the S _____

b. They do the W _____ of the M _____

c. They E _____ the B _____ of C _____

15. Why is all this necessary? Consider Ephesians 4:12b

What is it that best builds up the Body of Christ?

To be E _____ in W _____ of S _____

Final Thoughts

Remember:

Every believer is gifted by Christ with varied gifts.
It is not the prerogative of the few!
You are not an accident in the Body of Christ.
You have received gifts according to the will of Christ,
which He gives in a measure to suit His good purposes for you,
and for the body.

Warning:

PLEASE do not fall into the trap of thinking that if you are not
an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or a teacher,
then you can just sit back and not get involved in the function of the church.

No, not at all.

In fact, the 'works of service' spoken of in Ephesians 4:12
are to be performed by YOU as you have allowed yourself to be prepared
by the apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers etc.

Then you are equipped to be 'sent'.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 2 – How A Healthy Church Grows Ephesians 4:10-16

1. Consider: How do you define a 'healthy church'?

Is it:
 - a. The **NUMBER** of **PEOPLE ATTENDING**?
 - b. Great **PROGRAMS**?
 - c. Compelling **VISION**?

2. Identify the 5 people groups. **Apostles**
Prophets
Evangelists
Pastors
Teachers

3. They are the **GIFTS** of the Risen Christ to the Church.

4. This verse reaffirms that each individual Christian is gifted.

5. Paul also specifies certain **PUBLIC LEADERSHIP** gifts in a healthy church. These are foundational, not optional.

6. The Greek word 'apostolos' is translated 'sent out one'.
So the words 'messenger', 'representative', 'sent', all translate from 'apostle'.

7. **PAUL, JAMES** (the brother of Jesus), **BARNABUS**

8. What were the two special qualifications to be designated an Apostle?
 - a. They were **EYEWITNESSES** of **CHRIST**
Read: 1 Corinthians 9:1 and 1 Corinthians 15:7-8

 - b. They were **MARKED** by **SIGNS** and **WONDERS**
Read 2 Corinthians 12:12

9.
 - a. **ESTABLISH CHRISTIAN TEACHING**
Consider: Acts 4:42

 - b. **ESTABLISH** the **CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
Consider: Ephesians 2:20

10. YES, we do have Apostles in the church today.

To name some of them, they are PAUL, JAMES, JUDE, MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, PETER etc.

You see, there is ONE CHURCH that EXTENDS DOWN THROUGH HISTORY
These Apostles are GIFTS to us.

11. This is a foundational gift as they are involved in bringing the Word of God to us.

12. **EVANGELISTS** - **Soul Winners**
PASTORS - **Soul Carers** [shepherds]
TEACHERS - **Soul Builders**

13. To **PREPARE** God's people for **WORKS** of **SERVICE**

14. a. They **PERFECT** the **SAINTS**.

We, the Saints, need constant perfecting as we grow and mature as Christians.

b. They do the **WORK** of the **MINISTRY**.

This is *their* ministry; not to be confused with the 'works of service' for which they are preparing us.

c. They **EDIFY** the **BODY** of **CHRIST**

15. To be **ENGAGED** in **WORKS** of **SERVICE**.

We will not grow unless we are involved in serving others...

Without this our spiritual lives will stagnate.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 3 – Growing Up Into Christ, The Head Ephesians 4:10-16

1. As this study continues from where we left off last time we need to read again and consider Ephesians 4:10-16
In our last study we looked at the fact that:
G _____ are given to the church in the form of A _____, P _____, E _____, P _____ and T _____
2. Why are these gifts given? Verse 12a
To P _____ G _____ P _____ for W _____ of S _____
3. Why is this necessary? Read verse 12b
God's people need to be B _____ U _____, Reach U _____, and become M _____
4. What does this bring? Read again verse 14a
S _____ S _____
5. Why do we need it?
That we are no longer T _____ around by the W _____ of F _____
T _____ and that we are no longer B _____ around by the W _____ of F _____ T _____,
6. We will take a brief look now at the 'Nature of False Teaching'.
Take a look at and consider the following verses:
Matthew 13:22 False C _____
Matthew 7:15 False P _____ [who look good!]
2 Corinthians 11:13 False A _____
2 Corinthians 11:26 False B _____
1 Timothy 1:3 False D _____
7. Read and consider also the following warnings:
Hebrews 13:9, 2 Peter 3:16, 1 Timothy 4:2, as well as Ephesians 4:14
8. Why do good Christians often fail to understand these warnings and/or fail to

respond to them?

- a. We really do not know the F _____
- b. And we really do not know C _____

9. So what are the Antidotes to error? There are essentially two.

- i. U _____ in the F _____

Read and consider: 1 Corinthians 16:13, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Philippians 1:27 and 1 Peter 5:9

- ii. K _____ of the S ___ of G ___

10. What is the source of false teaching? Read again Ephesians 4:14

11. And finally, what is the purpose of all this? Read and consider Ephesians 4:15 – 16

Final Thoughts

We should be aware of what is the most dangerous kind of false teaching.

We would all recognize a mile off those obvious heretics
who deny the fundamental deity of Christ,
the Virgin birth, the work of the Cross, the Authority of scripture etc.
But what is most dangerous is the kind of false teaching that is cloaked with ‘half-truths’,
many of which we find convincingly and confidently presented on Christian TV programs;
the most popular of which is the materialistic doctrines of prosperity.

We are not going to critique that here, but the problem is that all effective false teaching
contains some truth – but it is mixed with poison.
And because we recognize the part that is true,
we drink the poison also.

The enemy knows full well that most Christians
do not know the Word of God anywhere near well enough,
and that for many, their level of Christian experience is at best superficial.
Such people are susceptible to be easily blown around.

Finally, we should be slow to sympathize with false teachers.

Deal gently with moral failure in people.
But deal severely with those who propagate doctrinal error.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 3 – Growing Up Into Christ, The Head Ephesians 4:10-16

1. In our last study we looked at the fact that:
GIFTS are given to the church in the form of **APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS** and **TEACHERS**
2. These gifts are given To **PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE** for **WORKS** of **SERVICE**.
3. God's people need to be **BUILT UP**, Reach **UNITY**, and become **MATURE**
4. It brings **SPIRITUAL STABILITY**
5. That we are no longer **TOSSED** around by the **WAVES** of **FALSE TEACHING** and that we are no longer **BLOWN** around by the **WINDS** of **FALSE TEACHING**.
6. In taking a brief look at the 'Nature of False Teaching', consider these verses:
Matthew 13:22 False **CHRISTS**
Matthew 7:15 False **PROPHETS** [who look good!]
2 Corinthians 11:13 False **APOSTLES**
2 Corinthians 11:26 False **BROTHERS**
1 Timothy 1:3 False **DOCTRINE**
7. Consider and discuss the verses suggested.
8. Why do good Christians often fail to understand these warnings? and/or fail to respond to them?
 - a. We really do not know the **FAITH** (doctrine)
 - b. And we really do not know **CHRIST** (experience)
Because of this, good people are easily blown around.
9.
 - i. **UNITY** in the **FAITH**
 - ii. **KNOWLEDGE** of the **SON** of **GOD**

Q. How do you know if something is true?
A. Is it consistent with Biblical doctrine? Is it consistent with Jesus Christ?
10. The scripture is very direct here. False teaching comes from those who are cunning, crafty, engaging in deceit and scheming; they manipulate the Bible, and they manipulate people usually for personal following and personal gain. When looking for false teachers ask yourself this simple question; how much of the gentle, humble character of Jesus do I see in this person?
11. After reading and considering Ephesians 4:15-16

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 4 – Why People Behave As They Do Ephesians 4:17-28

1. Read and Consider Ephesians 4:17-24
Paul talks here about how people should live out their union with Christ, and he does this by contrasting:

U _____ G _____ with
B _____ C _____

2. There are 3 crucial areas in this passage:

- i. The A _____ of their M _____
- ii. The A _____ of their H _____
- iii. The A _____ of their W _____

3. i. The Activity of their minds. Read again Ephesians 4:17-18
What are the 3 negative statements made here about their thinking?
That their thinking is: F _____, D _____, and I _____

4. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 2:14 and 2 Corinthians 4:4
What do these verses tell us?
-
-

5. Spiritual Life leads to U _____.
Understanding leads to R _____ and S _____ L _____

6. ii. The Attitudes of their Hearts.

Read again and consider v.18

7. The H _____ is more important than our M _____
The M _____ is the place of our U _____
The H _____ is the place of our D _____ - our A _____

Read and consider Matthew 15:19 and Acts 15:9

8. Read again Ephesians 4:10
When we lose our S _____ it is replaced by S _____

9. We should not forget that if we lose our sensitivity, sensuality will often lead to
S _____ P _____ Read Romans 1:24

10. iii. The Actions of their Wills.

Read again and consider Ephesians 4:17, and Ephesians 4:22-24
Can you identify the problem here?

11. The battle between the old self and the new life is pretty much common to everyone. So how do we deal with it? Read and consider Colossians 3:1-5

12. Finally:

a. Put on T _____ and put off F _____ Ephesians 4:25 and Psalm 51:6

b. Put on F _____ and put off A _____ Ephesians 4:26-27

c. Put on G _____ and put off S _____ Ephesians 4:28

Final Thoughts

In other words – if you are struggling in your Christian life, deliberately do the opposite.
As you put on the clothing of the New Life, the Old will begin to fall away.
And Remember: spiritual death leaves us with a darkened understating,
which then leaves us outside the will of God.

We are to live on the basis of right understanding
which of necessity means that if we are going to change our behaviour
we have to change our minds and our thinking.

In the unbeliever, wrong thinking produces wrong behaviour. [v.17-19]

In the believer, right thinking produces right behaviour. [v.20-24]

This is why repentance is so crucial to Christian living.

What we think becomes what we are and do. Read Proverbs 23:7 KJV

Remember: You are not what you think you are.
But – what you think you are!

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 4 – Why People Behave As They Do Ephesians 4:17-28

1. He does this by contrasting:
UNBELIEVING GENTILES v.17-19 with
BELIEVING CHRISTIANS v.20-32
2. The 3 crucial areas in this passage are:
 - i. The **ACTIVITY** of their **MINDS**
 - ii. The **ATTITUDES** of their **HEARTS**
 - iii. The **ACTIONS** of their **WILLS**
3. The 3 negative statements made here about their thinking are that it is:
FUTILE, DARK and **IGNORANT**.

They are not unintelligent, but they are unformed because [v.18] they are separated from the life of God.
4. These verses - 1 Corinthians 2:14 and 2 Corinthians 4:4 – tell us that the capacity to understand spiritual truth is dependant upon our spiritual life.

If you are spiritually dead, you will be blinded to spiritual truth. Read also John 1:4
5. Spiritual Life leads to **UNDERSTANDING**.
Understanding leads to **RIGHT** and **SATISFYING LIVING**.
6. What lies behind their futile thinking, their darkened understanding and their ignorance & lack of spiritual life is the state of their hearts.
7. The **HEART** is more important than our **MINDS**.
The **MIND** is the place of our **UNDERSTANDING**
The **HEART** is the place of our **DISPOSITION** - our **ATTITUDE**
Read and consider Matthew 15:19 and Acts 15:9
8. When we lose our **SENSITIVITY** it is replaced by **SENSUALITY**.
Sensuality is self-centered, and it is never satisfied; it is destructive, materialistic and egotistical.
Sensitivity is other-centered. It cares, loves, protects, provides and builds up.
9. We should not forget that if we lose our sensitivity, sensuality will often lead to **SEXUAL PERVERSION**. Read Romans 1:24

10. You would have thought that these new converts were so excited to be free from the old life of sin that they would not want to go back to it; but what we see here is that battle between the New Self and the Old Life.
11. Consider Colossians 3:1-5
12.
 - a. Put on **TRUTH** and put off **FALSEHOOD** Ephesians 4:25 and Psalm 51:6
 - b. Put on **FORGIVENESS** and put off **ANGER** Ephesians 4:26-27
 - c. Put on **GIVING** and put off **STEALING** Ephesians 4:28

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 5 – Grieving The Holy Spirit Ephesians 4:25-32

1. Read and consider Ephesians 4:25-32
The Holy Spirit is prominent in Ephesians.
 - a. The Father I _____ 1:4
 - b. The Son R _____ 1:7
 - c. The Holy Spirit I _____ 2:22
2. This study will look at:
 - a. The (N _____) B _____ of the Holy Spirit and who He is.
 - b. The S _____ of the Holy Spirit and what this mean.
 - c. The G _____ of the Holy Spirit and what this mean.
3. We often make the mistake of thinking of the Holy Spirit in an abstract way:
 - a. He is like W _____
 - b. He is like G _____
 - c. He is like E _____
4. The Holy Spirit is a P _____, not a P _____
5. The Holy Spirit posses P _____ A _____
 - a. He has a M _____ Romans 8:27
 - b. He has E _____ Romans 15:30
 - c. He has a W _____ 1 Corinthians 12:11
6. Think of some of the ways in which the Holy Spirit engages in personal activity
Acts 13:2 - He S _____ John 14:26 - He T _____
Acts 16:6 - He C _____ Ephesians 3:16 - He E _____
John 16:13 - He G _____ Romans 8:26-27 - He I _____
Acts 20:28 - He A _____
7. Think of some of the ways in which the Holy Spirit can be personally antagonized
Ephesians 4:30 He can be G _____
Acts 7:51 He can be R _____

Acts 5:3-4 He can be L ___ T _

Mark 3:29 He can be B _____ A _____

8. What does the 'Sealing of the Holy Spirit' mean?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 and Ephesians 1:12

9. What does it mean to Grieve the Holy Spirit?
How do we do that? It is important to look up the Dictionary Definition of the word 'grieve'

10. To grieve is not A _____, but A _____ may be involved.

To grieve is not D _____ though D _____ may be involved.

To grieve is not L _____, though L _____ is involved.

To grieve is not G _____ though G _____ is involved.

Grief is a combination of A _____ / L _____, of S _____ ? G _____

Read now Genesis 6:6

11. What is it that causes God to be grieved?
Read Ephesians 4:22 What does that indicate?

Read Ephesians 4:25 What does that indicate?

Read Ephesians 4:26 What 2 things does that indicate?

Read Ephesians 4:27 What does that indicate?

Read Ephesians 4:29 What does that indicate?

12. Finally, you know you are grieving the Holy Spirit when:

- a. His P _____ has become C _____
- b. His P _____ is D _____
- c. His B _____ is A _____
- d. His E _____ is W _____

Final Thoughts

It is a false notion to think that we can have 'more of the Holy Spirit'
or 'less of the Holy Spirit'.

The important question is not 'how much do we have of the Holy Spirit?'

The all-important questions are:

How much do we TRUST the Holy Spirit?

How much do we RESPOND to the Holy Spirit?

How much do we allow ourselves to be GUIDED by the Holy Spirit?

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 5 – Grieving The Holy Spirit Ephesians 4:25-32

1. The Holy Spirit is prominent in Ephesians.
 - a. The Father **INITIATES** Ephesians 1:4
 - b. The Son **REDEEMS** Ephesians 1:7
 - c. The Holy Spirit **INDWELLS** Ephesians 2:22
2. This study will look at:
 - a. The **(NATURE) BEING** of the Holy Spirit and who He is.
 - b. The **SEALING** of the Holy Spirit and what this means.
 - c. The **GRIEVING** of the Holy Spirit and what this means.
3.
 - a. He is like **WIND** to blow a kite. We harness the power of wind.
 - b. He is like **GASOLINE** to drive a car. Fill it up with energy.
 - c. He is like **ELECTRICITY** to light a house. Plug into it.

In other words, if we harness it the right way it will serve us. **But this is WRONG!**

4. The Holy Spirit is a **PERSON**, not a **POWER**.
The Holy Spirit is not 'IT'. He is HE, PERSONAL
5. The Holy Spirit posses **PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES**
 - a. He has a **MIND** Romans 8:27
 - b. He has **EMOTIONS** Romans 15:30
 - c. He has a **WILL** 1 Corinthians 12:11
6. Some of the ways in which the Holy Spirit engages in personal activity -
Acts 13:2 - He **SPEAKS** John 14:26 - He **TEACHES**
Acts 16:6 - He **COMMANDS** Ephesians 3:16 - He **EMPOWERS**
John 16:13 - He **GUIDES** Romans 8:26-27 - He **INTERCEEDS**
Acts 20:28 - He **APPOINTS**
7. Think of some of the was in which the Holy Spirit can be personally antagonized
Ephesians 4:30 He can be **GRIEVED**
Acts 7:51 He can be **RESISTED**
Acts 5:3-4 He can be **LIED TO**
Mark 3:29 He can be **BLASPHEMED AGAINST**
8. A seal is all about 'ownership'
Our part is to Believe, for which the scripture gives assurance.
The Holy Spirit indwells/seals, by which He gives inner assurance.
Read also: Romans 8:16 and Romans 5:5

9. Dictionaries can differ slightly but generally, 'to grieve' means:
A deep or intense sorrow or mourning

It is most often associated with mourning the death of a loved one, but literally 'to grieve' involves a unique combination of emotions – both negative and positive.

10. To grieve is not **ANGER**, but **ANGER** may be involved.
To grieve is not **DISAPPOINTMENT**, though **DISAPPOINTMENT** may be involved.
To grieve is not **LOVE**, though **LOVE** is involved.
To grieve is not **GRATITUDE**, though **GRATITUDE** is involved.

Grief is a combination of **ANGER & LOVE, SADNESS & GRATITUDE/**
Read now Genesis 6:6

11. Read Ephesians 4:22 PUT OFF your old self.
Read Ephesians 4:25 PUT OFF falsehood always speak truthfully.
Read Ephesians 4:26 DO NOT sin in your anger, or let the sun go down while
you are still angry.
Read Ephesians 4:27 DO NOT give the devil a foothold in your life.
Read Ephesians 4:29 DO NOT let any unwholesome talk come out of your
mouth.

All of these things grieve the Holy Spirit.

12. Finally, you know you are grieving the Holy Spirit when:
- e. His **PRESENCE** has become **CLOUDED**
 - f. His **POWER** is **DIMINISHED**
 - g. His **BLESSING** is **ABSENT**
 - h. His **ENERGY** is **WEAKENED**

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 6 – Love & Sexual Behaviour Ephesians 5:1-14

1. Read and consider Ephesians 5:1-14
What is the warning being issued here?

2. Without looking at your Bible again can you remember the very strong admonishment in verse 3, that among believers;
'... there must not be even a H ___ of S _____ I _____,
or of any kind of I _____ or G _____, because these are improper for God's holy people.
3. We should be clear that here he is talking about
I _____ H _____ S ___ not H _____, so we will not talk about that here.
4. In this passage Paul is talks about two things:
 - a. S _____ C _____
 - b. V _____ C _____
5. What are two kinds of illicit sexual practices?
 - a. F _____ which is P ___ - M _____ sex.
 - b. A _____ which is E _____ - M _____ sex.
6. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 6:18
The misuse of sex is a sin, but it is a different kind of sin, according to Paul
7. Sexual sin is rooted in L _____ not L _____
 - a. L _____ is S _____-C _____,
based on G _____ that wants S _____-S _____
 - b. L _____ is O _____ - C _____,
based on G _____ that desire to G _____ S _____
8. The next part of the warning issued concerns our

V _____ C _____

9. Read and consider Ephesians 5:4 and Ephesians 5:12
10. Read and consider again Ephesians 5:6
Then go back to Ephesians 5:5
11. To wrap up this study read and consider what the Lord admonishes us to do in:
Philippians 4:8 and Romans 8:5-7

Final Thoughts

Sex was created by God to be experienced and enjoyed
within the bounds of marriage.

It holds the potential for the highest joy,
but when this gift from God is misused and abused
it holds the potential for the deepest hurts and sadness.

If sex is sacred and holy,
fulfilling God's purposes,
we should not belittle it by the kind of idle,
flippant talk that we can engage in.

Our conversation can sow seeds,
thoughts and pictures that can lead to temptation.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 6 – Love & Sexual Behaviour Ephesians 5:1-14

1. The warning being issued here is that of immortality ... in a marriage, in a family and in the workplace.
2. The very strong admonishment in verse 3, is that among believers; '... there must not be even a **HINT** of **SEXUAL IMMORALITY** or of any kind of **IMPURITY** or **GREED** because these are improper for God's holy people."
3. We should be clear that here he is talking about **ILLCIT HETROSEXUAL SEX** not **HOMOSEXUALITY** so we will not talk about that here.
4. In this passage Paul is talks about two things:
 - a. **SEXUAL COMMUNICATION**
 - b. **VERBAL COMMUNICATION**
5. The two kinds of illicit sexual practices are:
 - a. **FORNICATION** which is **PRE-MARITAL** sex.
 - b. **ADULTRY** which is **EXTRA-MARITAL** sex.
6. The misuse of sex is a sin, but it is a different kind of sin, according to Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:18
7. Sexual sin is rooted in **LUST** not **LOVE**.
 - a. **LUST** is **SELF-CENTERED**, based on **GREED** that wants **SELF-SATISFACTION**.
 - b. **LOVE** is **OTHER-CENTERED**, based on **GIVING** that desires to **GIVE SATISFACTION**.

Lust is not just sexual desire, it is also **selfish** desire.
8. The next part of the warning issued concerns our **VERBAL COMMUNICATION**.
9. This is a clear warning against participating in frivolous talk about sex. Coarse jokes and sexual innuendoes are strongly discouraged.
10. There are those who will tell us not to be silly, that there is nothing wrong with telling a few 'off-colour' jokes. But we should not allow ourselves to be persuaded by such people, because **they provoke God's wrath**.

Ephesians 5:8-10 tells us how we should live.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 7 – Be Filled With The Spirit Ephesians 5:15-21

1. Our key verse today would be Ephesians 5:18
What are the two commands contained in this verse?

2. It would be good for us to review what Paul has already said to the Ephesians about a full work of the Spirit. Read the following verses:

Ephesians 1:13-14	Ephesians 3:16
Ephesians 2:18	Ephesians 4:3
Ephesians 2:22	Ephesians 4:30

Also look carefully at Ephesians 5:15. What is this saying to us?

3. There are three primary relationship with the Spirit into which each of us fits.

a. There are persons who are W_____ the Spirit.
Read 1 Corinthians 2:14

4. There are people who have the Spirit, yet they G_____ the Spirit.
For examples Read : Ephesians 4:30-31
1 Thessalonians 5:19
1 Corinthians 3:1

5. The third and final condition are those people who are F_____ with the Spirit.

6. The Book of Acts uses the expression "Filled with the Spirit" in 4 ways:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. It was an E_____ | Read Acts 2:2-4 and 9:17 |
| b. It was a C_____ | Read Acts 6:3-5, 7:55 & 11:24 |
| c. It was an E_____ | Read Acts 4:8, 4:31, 13:9 & 13:52 |
| d. It was a C_____ | Read Acts 1:4 |

7. How do you know if a person is filled with the Holy Spirit?
There are three give-away evidences.

- a. How they W_____ Galatians 5:16, Ephesians 5:2 & 1 John 1:7
- b. How they T_____ Matthew 12:34b
- c. How they S_____ 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

8. How is this fullness of the Spirit expressed?

Ephesians 5:19a; Ephesians 5:19b; Ephesians 5:21

9. This neatly brings us back to our previous study. Remember ?

W _____ to H _____ / H _____ to W _____

C _____ to P _____ / P _____ to C _____

S _____ to M _____ / M _____ to S _____

FINAL THOUGHTS

Remember :

The biggest enemy to the work of God
are the people of God who are content to live in the flesh
instead of in the Spirit.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 7 – Be Filled With The Spirit Ephesians 5:15-21

1. a. Do not get drunk on wine.
b. Be filled with the spirit.

Be careful here, because it is easier to obey the negative - do not get drunk on wine - than it is to engage with the positive - be filled with the spirit.

2. Against the background of this command to 'be filled with the spirit' we are also commanded not to be foolish. We need to be careful about this, because to not be filled with the spirit is to be foolish
3. There are persons who are **WITHOUT** the Spirit.
It is not a question of intellectual ability, but rather spiritual capacity.
4. The church in Corinth have the Spirit, yet they **GRIEVE** the Spirit because there was division, jealousy, quarreling, competing agendas and tolerance of sin.
5. The third and final condition are those people who are **FILLED** with the Spirit. But what exactly does this mean?
6. a. It was an **EVENT**
b. It was a **CONDITION**
c. It was an **EQUIPPING**
d. It was a **COMMAND**
7. a. How they **WALK**
b. How they **TALK**
c. How they **SMELL**
8. Ephesians 5:19a. Speak to one another.
Ephesians 5:19b. Sing and make music to the Lord
Ephesians 5:21. Submit to one another
9. **Wives to Husbands / Husbands to Wives**
Children to Parents / Parents to Children
Servants to Masters / Masters to Servants

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 8 – Responsibilities in Marriage Ephesians 5:21-33

1. Read and consider Ephesians 5:21-33

What does it show us about God's high purpose in marriage?

- a. It is a S_____ Union
- b. It is a S_____ Union
- c. It is a S_____ Union

2. We may think that God's purposes for marriage are idealistic and unrealistic, but we need to go back to the beginning.
Read Galatians 3:13. What does this tell us?

3. Now read Revelation 22:3-4. What does this tell us?

4. The teaching of Paul was actually R_____ and L_____ regarding
G_____ and M_____

5. The church in Ephesus was influenced by 3 cultures, all of which had negative perspectives on women and marriage. Those cultures were :

- a. J_____ perspective
- b. R_____ perspective
- c. G_____ perspective

6. Briefly, what was the perspective of a Jewish man?

7. In the Greek culture what was it like for a woman?

8. And what was it like in the culture of the Roman Republic?

9. This whole idea of S_____ is not a popular one.

We are much more interested in our R_____ and P_____.

10. This message went into some deeper areas that we do not have time to look at in a study such as this, but look again at the following scriptures and see if you can discern what they show us.

Ephesians 5:22

Ephesians 5:23

Ephesians 6:1

Ephesians 6:4

Ephesians 6:5

Ephesians 6:9

FINAL THOUGHTS

It is impossible to exaggerate the cleansing effect that Christianity had on marriage and family life. That is why Paul's teaching were considered so radical and liberating, especially for women.

Christ, our example, does three things.
He holds the body together.
He supports and enables its growth.
He builds it up in love.

And this is exactly what the husband should be doing in respect to his wife and family.

Read and consider
Ephesians 5:25
1 John 4:18
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 8 – Responsibilities in Marriage Ephesians 5:21-33

1.
 - a. It is a **SPIRITUAL** Union
 - b. It is a **SOCIAL** Union
 - c. It is a **SEXUAL** Union
2. The fact of 'the curse' is evident throughout history, but these verses tell us that the Gospel REVERSES the curses of the FALL.
3. These verses tell us that it is only at the end of the book are these curses actually lifted.
4. The teaching of Paul was actually **RADICAL** and **LIBERATING** regarding **GENDER** and **MARRIAGE**.
5. **Jewish** perspective - national customs
Roman perspective - colonizing power
Greek perspective - cultural legacy
6. A Jewish man thanked God every morning for 3 things:
 - a. That he was not a gentile.
 - b. That he was not a slave.
 - c. That he was not a woman
7. In the Greek culture a woman lived a life of seclusion. She could not go out on the street alone, not even to the market. For her it was a life of complete servitude and chastity. Men, on the other hand, could do pretty much as they pleased.
8. For the first 500 years of the Roman Republic, there was not recorded one single case of divorce, such was it's disciplined nature; but by the time of Paul's letter to the Ephesians Roman family life was wrecked by an atmosphere of promiscuousness and adultery. Family life had broken down.
9. This whole idea of **SUBMISSION** is not a popular one. We are much more interested in our **RIGHTS** and **PRIVILEGES**.
10. In the centre of everything is Christ and His headship over us to which we need to be in submission.

Read and consider Ephesians 4:15-16

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 9 – Responsibilities in the Family Life Ephesians 6:1-4

1. Read Ephesians 6:1-4
What are the 3 pairs of mutual submissions that these verses introduce?
 - a. H _____ and W _____ to each other.
 - b. P _____ and C _____ to each other.
 - c. M _____ and W _____ to each others
2. Read again verses 1 and 4. Carefully consider these verses.
What two important aspects emerge here?
 - a. There is to be L _____ S _____ on the part of the C _____
 - b. There is to be L _____ S _____ on the part of the P _____
3. So there are two things that we see here :
 - a. A M _____ for C _____
 - b. A M _____ for P _____
4. Read again, and look more closely at verses 1 - 3
Do you notice anything here?

5. What are the two connotations of the word "children"?
 - a. As in A _____
 - b. As in R _____
6. A D _____ child O _____ because it is R _____
An I _____ child should H _____ because it is W _____
7. Explore why it is right that a dependent child should obey.

8. For what other reasons is it 'right' for children to obey their parents?
Because children need T _____, T _____, D _____,

and P_____ that it is the responsibility of the parents to provide
Read Proverbs 22:6 and 15

9. Parents have to teach their children O_____.
But what else is it that dependent children need?

They need the S_____ of B_____ that are U_____,
S_____, R_____, and R_____

10. Independent children should obey simply because it is written; and there is a very good reason for that. Read and thoroughly consider Deuteronomy 5:16

FINAL THOUGHTS

If dependent children are not given the security of boundaries they will become miserable and insecure, evidenced by tantrums.

Your 'no' must mean NO. Threats must be followed through.

These boundaries will keep expanding until there are no boundaries left,
and so they are on their own,
and you have brought them up to be responsible people
who know the value and importance of living within boundaries.

Applied discipline, creates self discipline.

The kind of adults that children become
depends largely on the kind of children we teach them to be.

BUT REMEMBER :

We instruct children by our OWN EXAMPLE.

We instruct children by TEACHING.

We instruct children by CORRECTION.

This is the most important job that we will ever have,
and we need to do it in humble submission to one another.

Here are some other scriptures that
should be read and thoroughly considered.

Ephesians 6:4 (again)

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 22:15

Hebrews 12:7b and verse 10

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 10 – The Gospel & Slavery Ephesians 6:5-9

1. Read Ephesians 6:5-9

This last study directs us to two Guiding Principles which are found in Ephesians 5:18 and 5:21

What are those Guiding Principles?

2. So who does the submitting to whom?

- a. H _____ and W _____ to EACH OTHER
b. P _____ and C _____ to EACH OTHER
c. M _____ and W _____ to EACH OTHER

3. The scripture literally uses the word 'slaves'. Why is that?

4. When we think of 'slaves' what does that bring to mind?

- a. F _____ S _____
b. C _____
c. A _____
d. E _____
e. D _____

5. Read and consider these comments made by the Apostle Paul about slaves and slavery:

- a. 1 Timothy 1:9-11
b. Colossians 3:22
c. 1 Timothy 6:1
d. Titus 2:9-10

6. Why is it then that Paul, while being hard on 'slave traders', now seems to be soft on slavery?

He seems to A _____ and T _____ it.

Why doesn't he C _____ it, and encourage R _____ against it?

7. The answer to this question is that there is what we call

the S _____ of the A _____.

It is entrenched in the C _____ P _____ and O _____ of the people.

Every age has its B _____ S _____ and I _____ S _____.

8. In the present day we have many things that can be called 'the spirit of the age'.

In our age it could be said that we have become soft on:

a. The issue of G _____ P _____, H _____, L _____

b. D _____

c. L _____ in S _____

d. E _____ - M _____ S _____

e. H _____

Just to list a few.

9. So how do we tackle the problem of slavery or any other forms of sinfulness that are associated with the 'spirit of the age'?

Read carefully and consider 1 Timothy 1:9-11; and then Matthew 15:19

10. If we want to C _____ S _____ we must address the H _____ H _____

That is why P _____ the G _____ is the F _____ most I _____,

most F _____ task of the church. **Introducing people to Christ.**

Final Thoughts

Slavery today is legally abolished by International Law.

On December 10, 1948 the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Among its 30 articles it declares that:

Article 1 - All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
They are endowed with reason and conscience,
and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 3 - Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.

Article 4 - No one shall be held in slavery or servitude;
slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

However, despite these well-intentioned, lofty proclamations,
illegal slavery is not only still present in the world, it is actually on the increase.

There are 'debt slaves', incurred by 'lenders'
that sometimes pass from generation to generation.
And there is a proliferation of 'human trafficking' of women and children
to feed the sex industry.

The UN estimates that some 2.5 million people from 127 countries
are being trafficked around the world in an industry
that has a global market of about \$42.5 BILLION EACH YEAR.

How does this message of Ephesians 6 apply to us today?

The 'spirit of the age' has changed significantly in the past 50 years.

Our basic **assumptions and beliefs** have changed.

Therefore our **ethics and morality** has changed.

Therefore our **laws and institutions** have changed.

It is very hard to work against the *spirit of the age*, so instead
we must work to ***change that spirit with the Gospel.***

The reality of the gospel is that it is **subversive**.

It goes behind events, to the heart.

But then it has a massive impact on our society.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 2 – Growing Up Into Christ Part 10 – The Gospel & Slavery Ephesians 6:5-9

1. Those Guiding Principles are:
 - a. Be filled with the spirit.
 - b. Mutual submission.
2.
 - a. **HUSBANDS** and **WIVES** to **EACH OTHER**
 - b. **PARENTS** and **CHILDREN** to **EACH OTHER**
 - c. **MASTERS** and **WORKERS** [Slaves] to **EACH OTHER**

Notice that this is **MUTUAL** submission.
3. Slavery was a common feature in the Roman Empire, especially in cities like Rome and Ephesus where the church to whom these letters were written, was located.

Interestingly the practice of slavery was not evident in the far-flung provinces of the Roman Empire such as Judea.

In the four gospels there is no mention of Jesus ever encountering any slaves.

4.
 - a. **FORCED SERVITUDE**
 - b. **CRUELTY**
 - c. **ABUSE**
 - d. **EXPLOITATION**
 - e. **DEGREDDATION**
5.
 - a. 1 Timothy 1:9-11
Here Paul puts slave traders in the same category as murderers, adulterers and perverts.
 - b. *Colossians 3:22*
Yet now Paul addresses slaves directly telling them to obey their masters.
 - c. *1 Timothy 6:1*
And now slaves are to be taught to submit to their masters so that God's name and teaching will not be slandered.
 - d. *Titus 2:9-10*
Again, slaves are told how to act in submission as a means of making God's teaching attractive. How bizarre is that!? How can any consequence of slavery be called 'attractive'?
6. He seems to **ACCEPT** and **TOLERATE** it.
Why doesn't he **CONDEMN** it, and encourage **REBELLION** against it?
7. The answer to this question is that there is what we call
the **SPIRIT** of the **AGE**.

It is entrenched in the **COLLECTIVE PSYCHE** and **OUTLOOK** of the people.

Every age has its **BLIND SPOTS** and **INSTITUTIONALIZED SINS**.

8. In the present day we have many things that can be called 'the spirit of the age'. In our age it could be said that we have become soft on:
- a. The issue of **GAY PRIDE. HOMOSEXUALITY, LESBIANISM**.
We must always love the sinner, but what can we do, or should we do, about the public proliferation of the sin?
 - b. **DIVORCE**.
It is now higher among Christians than among non-Christians.
 - c. **LIVING in SIN**
Co-habiting without the commitment of marriage.
 - d. **EXTRA-MARITAL SEX**
Indulged in by people in the church.
 - e. **HONESTY**
We lie as much by what we don't say or do, as by what we do say or do.
We 'talk the talk', but do we truly 'walk the walk'?

Just to list a few.

9. 1 Timothy 1:9-11 explains that slave trading is contrary to sound doctrine, and does not conform to the glorious gospel of God.

So the **antithesis of slavery** is the **gospel of God sound doctrine**.

There is a great temptation to have a social crusade against evil without addressing what lies behind it – the heart of people.

Matthew 15:19 explains that the answer to the ills of our age is Christ – because **He changes hearts**.

10. If we want to **CHANGE SOCIETY** we must address the **HUMAN HEART**
That is why **PREACHING** the **GOSPEL** is the **FIRST**, most **IMPORTANT**, most **FUNDAMENTAL** task of the church. **Introducing people to Christ**.

The unique role of the gospel is to go behind **external activities**
to the **internal attitudes of the heart**.