

Become What You Believe (Ephesians) – Part 4

3:12 – “boldness and access with confidence” (!)

3:12 – “by the faith OF HIM” – we live by HIS FAITH!

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

3:13 – tribulation for the gospel's sake brings glory to God and to His church – your tribulations are not only for you – your experiences impact others

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

3:14 – “for this cause I bow” – Paul is in awe of the plan of God

3:15 – “the whole family” – the church is bigger than HERE and bigger than NOW (it reaches to the PAST and the FUTURE); the whole family includes an innumerable host of saints in Heaven!

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

3:16 – “inner MAN” – not “inner child” – you are called to be MATURE, strengthened by God to be MATURE, and expected to be MATURE!

3:17 – “dwell” – “to live in as a home” – this means that Christ is not just living in our hearts, but that He is “feeling at home” in us!

3:19 – “passeth knowledge” – greater than what you can figure out!

3:20 – “exceeding abundantly above all” – English translators are struggling a bit here to give us the sense that God's power is “over the top”

3:20 – “according” – common word in Ephesians, meaning “in harmony with” – in the first two chapters refers to something God or the devil did (in spirit realm) – here it is used to refer to something that WE as the church allow!

3:21 – “Amen” – “absolutely, unequivocally true” – you can't argue with a statement that has an “Amen” at the end of it!

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

4:1 - God often calls you to do things YOU cannot do (i.e. He called Peter to walk on the water, and Lazarus to come out of the grave) – He imparts His ability to us as we walk with Him

4:1 – “walk worthy” – walk as though you were already at the place you are pursuing - don't walk according to where you are (faith calls those things that are NOT as though they WERE)

4:2 – “with all lowliness” – the higher the call, the lower you must be; the more gifted you are, the more humble you must be

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

4:3 – fulfilling our calling is inseparably tied to our allegiance to one another; unity costs something, and unity WILL be a struggle

4:3 – “spirit of unity” – unity is impossible apart from the Holy Spirit (how the SPIRIT is leading our church is far more important than MY preferences!)

4:4 – “one Body and one Spirit” – coming into GOD'S presence means that we have to come into each other's presence – whether you understand and like me or not, He's my God too!

4:6 – our “oneness” is a dynamic oneness – it takes God to hold it together

4:7 – “grace” = “graciousness” (the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life) – we need this to get along with each other!

4:8 – the OT saints were held CAPTIVE by the grave but not the NT church!

4:9-10 – Jesus went into Hell itself – so we would never have to go there!

4:11 – five-fold LEADERSHIP ministries in the church

Thumb Finger	Apostle	touches all other ministries
Index Finger	Prophet	gives direction
Middle Finger	Evangelist	reaches furthest
Ring Finger	Pastor	in covenant with local church
Little Finger	Teacher	brings balance

4:12 – this is NOT the “threefold job description of the fivefold ministry” – church leadership has ONE job, to perfect (“mature”) the saints – so THEY can do the work of the MINISTRY and edify (“grow, build up”) the Body

4:13 – mature saints are UNIFIED – with each other, their pastor, the church

4:14 – immature believers are UNSTABLE and easily influenced

4:15 – “speaking the truth in love” - speaking the truth takes BOLDNESS, and speaking in love takes KINDNESS - you need BOTH

4:16 – to be “fitly joined” is NOT just being “loosely joined” – we are not independent, but interdependent

4:16 – “every joint … every part” - when one part of the Body doesn't work properly, we all suffer for it

4:17 – “vanity of their mind” – the human ego can't function in God's kingdom unless it has been tempered by the Holy Spirit

4:18 – “ignorance” - they may be very intelligent, but they are ignorant in this area because they are in the DARK (they are not walking in LIGHT)

4:19 – “lasciviousness” means unrestrained action (with no boundaries) - if we are not going to be like the world, we need to have "**restrained action**"

4:22 & 4:24 – “put off” and “put on”

4:23 – what is between “put off” and “put on”? – RENEW YOUR MIND (CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE)

Your “new clothes” may not immediately be as comfortable as your “old clothes” – but keep putting them on, by PRACTICING until your new actions become a HABIT (“but doing that feels like a ‘put on,’ Pastor!” – EXACTLY!)

This is not being a hypocrite, it is **RETRAINING** yourself to walk with God and **RESTRAINING** your old self from walking in sin

FOUR THINGS TO PUT OFF:

4:25 – LYING – be honest in word and spirit (the impressions you give)

4:26-27 – ANGER – deal with your feelings immediately and biblically

4:28 – STEALING – get a job (!), and be generous with what you have

4:29 – CORRUPT TALK – not just filthy talk, but negative talk as well

4:27 – “place” = “territory”

4:29 – “edifying … minister grace” – if your communication destroys unity or damages a brother or sister, it may be “right” but it is still WRONG!

4:30 – “grieve” – to outrage and humiliate (i.e. a King deposed from his throne by his own subjects – Jesus' throne is your heart!)

4:31 – SIX THINGS THAT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

BITTERNESS – motivated by unforgiveness

WRATH – motivated by a desire for revenge

ANGER – motivated by a loss of power

CLAMOR – motivated by discontent

EVIL SPEAKING – motivated by jealousy

MALICE – motivated by hatred

4:32 – “BE kind” (not “FEEL” kind)

4:32 – “as God” – when we begin to see others as God sees them, we will be “tender” toward them and forgive them even when they are undeserving

Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.