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## The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to Ephesians

<b>Author:</b>	Apostle, Paul
<b>Date:</b>	60-61AD
<b>Theme:</b>	The Glorious Church “In The Lord” & “In Christ Jesus”
<b>Key Words</b>	Glory / Body / Heavenly Places

### YTTC Theme: Love The Light (John 3:19-21)

- rule, to reign as a king,’
- to be in control in an absolute manner—
- ‘to reign, to control completely
- ① to exercise authority at a royal level, be king, rule
- ② to obtain royal power, become king

Ephesus was established in Acts 18/19, the place itself in Asia Minor, established for three years by Apostle Paul. Their spirituality is very good.

Mention of the Church (Eph 1:23), the bride of Christ. The letter may have been written to Laodicea, which was eventually passed on.

#### Main Characters

##### **Paul (Eph 1:1, 3:1)**

Apostle –

- ① messengers without extraordinary status
- ② messengers with extraordinary status, God’s messenger, envoy
- Ⓐ of prophets (Lk 11:49, Rev 18:20, Eph 3:5)
- Ⓑ of Christ (Heb 3:1)

Prisoner of Christ – (Eph 3:1, Eph 4:1, Phile v9, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 1:8, Acts 28:16)

##### **Tychicus (Eph 6:21-22)**

- Beloved brother and faithful minister
  - Beloved and valued
  - Minister – Servant
  - Purpose; to share the affairs of their ministry with Ephesian brethren
  - To comfort their hearts;
- **Additional behaviour and way of life of Tychicus:** -
- Acts 20:4 –
  - Accompanied Paul on journeys in Greece
- Col 4:7 –
  - ...beloved brother, faithful minister, fellow servant in the Lord

- Testify about Paul (faithfully) in the ministry
- Tit 3:12 –
  - Considered to be sent
  - Tychicus would be available to be sent
  - Obedient and submissive whenever sent
  - Respectful of sending by way of faithfulness

## **Brief Overview of Book**

### **Eph 1:1-3:21 Our Heavenly Calling**

We can appreciate, reflect upon the works of God through Jesus Christ, who came down from heaven to provide us with a new life in Jesus Christ. This new life includes heavenly calling for you to inherit the Kingdom of God through His works, and when you are willing to cooperate with His plan.

The heavenly calling is greatly appreciated in our life when we truly change direction from living according to the prince and power of the air to then become identified as called to Christ. When called to Jesus Christ, then we become made alive through Him; To cherish the work of God, To remain grateful to love the mystery of the Gospel, to preserve our identity that we remain in Christ. This helps us to be more determined to walk forwards than backwards, a life with Jesus Christ than without Jesus Christ.

### **Eph 4:1-6:24 Our Earthly Walk according to God**

Just as we are subject to what is acceptable and fitting in School, College, University, employment, we find that there are certain principles, you are required or expected to fulfil according to God. This also includes whether we are in Church, outside Church, at home, and in our behaviours towards one another. This helps consider our identity in Christ of in what we are similar in identity of aspects of behaviour to keep from we are to avoid.

Eph 4:1-16	Devotion and serving one another
Eph 4:17-32	Mutual love and personal integrity
Eph 5:1-6:9	Intimate connection with the holy God to live holy life
Eph 6:10-24	Warfare and armour of God

## **Outline to the Book of Ephesians**

### **Eph 1:1-3:21 Our Heavenly Calling**

#### **Eph 1:1-2 Opening Greeting**

#### **Eph 1:3-14 The Believer's Position in Christ**

Eph 1:3-8 Blessing of full redemption

Eph 1:9-14 Partnership in God's purpose

#### **Eph 1:15-23 The Apostle's prayer for insight**

Eph 1:15-18 Hearts that see with hope

Eph 1:19-21 Experience with Christ's Victory

Eph 1:22-23 Church is the body of Christ

#### **Eph 2:1-22 Believers: Past, Present and Future**

Eph 2:1-3 Past: Order of the living dead

Eph 2:4-10 Present: Order of God's loving life

Eph 2:11-12 Past: Separation and hopelessness

Eph 2:13-18 Present/Future: New union and present peace

Eph 2:19-22 The Church: Christ and His body

#### **Eph 3:1-13 The Apostle's Ministry and Message**

Eph 3:1-7 Stewardship Paul has been entrusted

Eph 3:8-13 Stewardship each believer is given

#### **Eph 3:14-21 The Apostle's prayer for Spiritual Power**

Eph 3:14-16 Strength by the Holy Spirit

Eph 3:17-19 Faith and love by Christ's indwelling

Eph 3:17-21 The Church and God's glory

### **Eph 4:1-6:24 Our Earthly Walk according to God**

#### **Eph 4:1-16 The believer's call to responsibility**

Eph 4:1-6 Pursue unity with diligence

Eph 4:7-11 Humble mindset towards grace and use of gifts

Eph 4:12-16 Grow in the ministry as part of the body

#### **Eph 4:17-5:14 The believers call to purity**

Eph 4:17-19 To refuse the carnal/worldly mindset

Eph 4:20-32 Creation - Remove the old but adorn the new

Eph 5:1-7 Avoid diluting love as we progress forward

Eph 5:8-14 Shine as bearers of light

#### **Eph 5:15-6:9 Believer's call to living by the Spirit**

Eph 5:15-17 Pursue God's will and wisdom

Eph 5:18-21 Sustain fullness of the Holy Spirit: Cultivation through Worship and humility

Eph 5:22-6:9 Conduct relationships to God's authority

#### **Eph 6:10-20 Believer's call to spiritual warfare**

## Study Analysis to the Book of Ephesians

### Eph 1:1-3:21 Our Heavenly Calling

#### Chapter One

##### Eph 1:1-2

##### Opening Greeting

- Greetings the saints of Ephesus whereby the will of God is discovered, the will of God is to grasped to understand, do and keep.

“...Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God”

- Jesus Christ identified Paul to be His apostle by the will of God.
- Absolute authority of God:
  - to allow or disallow
  - to appoint or to prevent, or reject
  - English saying “where there is a will there is a way”
  - **How did God “will” for Paul to be identified as His chosen Apostle?**
    - Paul had to be identified by God and then sent by God through the Church (Acts 13:2-3).

##### What does “will” mean?

- ① what one wishes to happen, what is willed
- ② the act of willing or desiring

V1) Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

- Faithful in Christ indeed bear identity as “saints”
  - **Did Apostle Paul try to make a distinction between those who are identified as “saints”, and those who are identified as “faithful in Christ?” Faithful saints or faithful in Christ is perhaps something that we can appreciate more.**
  - When we pursue to be faithful and obedient, this becomes part of our character. When consistent this can become a power to us based on principle.
    - The employer is more likely to accept the second description because s/he is identified more valuable, so appreciate with greater acceptance. – **HONEST & SINCERE**
    - Church – Good and proven reputation can become a power, because of dignity to keep, pursue, uphold and preserve (Acts 6:3-4, 1st Tim 1:12, Phil 2:22-24) – **HONEST & SINCERE**
    - To know authority and limits to our authority in presence of God and man (2nd Cor 13:7-10)
- We can belong to the Church and yet requirement is to be found faithful. Apostle Paul understood this in relation to the ministry:
  - 1st Tim 1:12 –
    - **12** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,
    - **As we relate more to the Lord Jesus and His requirements/expectations:**
      - **The Lord Jesus has will to enable and disable**
      - **The Lord can put us into ministry and He can take us out of His ministry**

- **The Lord Jesus does indeed seek faithful believers** (Mt 25:23, Lk 12:42)

### Eph 1:3-14

#### The Believer's Position in Christ

- As the believer in Christ we can allow time to reflect on identity of spiritual blessings we are recognised to have as His believers, similar to believers of Ephesus.
- To remind self of blessings Christ has given us to cherish being in Christ, without which we do not obtain these blessings
- When in Christ, we experience His blessings. When we remain in Christ, we strengthen fulfilment of every blessing God is willing to give in abundance.

Eph 1:3-8

Identity to be blessed of full redemption

**v3** 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,"

- Every spiritual blessing from Christ is a blessing to cherish from God
- **Blessed for every spiritual blessing?** –
  - Identify Jesus Christ as the One who blesses you in spiritual blessings according to Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ visit to bless:
    - The redeemed – so redeemed identified as blessed (Lk 1:68)
    - Jesus Christ is the eternally blessed God....so we are to relate well to God of Heaven we experience His eternal blessing (Rom 9:5)
  - To relate to holy God of heaven to then discover how to pursue to living hope, we need God to steer and guide us through Jesus Christ (1<sup>st</sup> Pet 1:3).
  - When the Lord Jesus Christ sees that we wish to remain in Him, we shall discover His complete care to maintain that identity in Christ when we remain willing not to depart from Him to discover:
    - Truth and guidance in truth
    - Mercy of God
    - Strength and power
  - When we are in Christ we are more complete as a result with Him than without Him. Identify is perfected and strengthened when we learn from Him and learn with Him.

#### What spiritual blessings can we identify that we relate to the heavenly call?

List –

**Eph 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**,

**Eph 1:4** .....**He chose us in Him** .....that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

- ① identified by His choice towards us
- ② identified by His particular preference to choose,
- **Lesson:** Become holy (set apart) and blameless (without fault) promotes identity, yet when we preserve to keep and cherish requirement we strengthen God's acceptance of us.

**Eph 1:6** .....**He made us accepted in the Beloved.**

- When we are in Christ, we discover the Beloved has accepted us
- **What does Christ do to demonstrate His acceptance of us in order for us to become in Christ and to remain in Christ?**

- Lk 4:22 – Gracious words
- Col 4:6 – Favorable speech
- Lk 2:40 – The favor of God upon Jesus Christ, so not lack His grace
- **How does Christ show His acceptance us in order for us to be identified in Christ? The reason to be accepted is because of God willing to share with us His grace.**
  - ① He shares His favourable reaction
  - ② He invites favour, grace, care/help, goodwill towards us.
  - The grace or favour from Christ grows as we give our attention to Him.
- Acts 11:23 –
  - **22** Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.
  - **23** When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.
    - Barnabas observed and witnessed the grace of God in Antioch
    - Having received kindness of the Lord, attraction to continue with the Lord in His goodness, and cherish what you continue to receive as a result.
- Rom 5:15 –
  - **15** But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.
    - The gift and grace of God will manifest the righteousness of God, who sees that you are right before Him, and so in Christ

## Eph 1:7

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

Here, we can see

- A. measure and works of God to make us alive in Him. When God worked to make us alive in Him:
- B. Three works that Christ has manifested in those His blessed, adopted and was willing to fulfil in His works: Redeem, pardon, increase us in His grace
  - A. **To redeem?** – Course of this world is a painful life, so when redeemed such would see Christ delivering you whereby He makes you alive in Him (Eph 4:30 – Rom 3:24 – 1st Cor 1:30)
  - B. **To forgive?**
    - ① His work to release/free us from being bound by sin
    - ② His work to remove our guilt, or punishment
    - – In order for Christ to make you alive in Him discover His work to pardon you through His blood. When we are made free from this course of this world then God's power helps us to truly manifest the powerful change in life, so identity changed by Christ according to Him.
- C. **Acts 26:18** –
  - **17** I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,
  - **18** to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.
    - A. The Lord is impartial to deliver Jews and Gentiles, yet requirement.
    - B. True Gospel is preached yet our faith to Gospel of God to be identified acceptable according to Jesus Christ whereby He justify faith is truly in Christ (that Jesus is their personal and only Saviour, believe in True Gospel.

- C. Significance – Christ manifest His work to pardon and remit sin, inherit identity of new creation in Christ
  - A. born according to God,
  - B. share inheritance with fellow believers

D. **Mk 3:29** –

- **29** but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"—
  - A. **Warning - Blaspheme?**
    - A. **a violate moral standards, offense, wrongdoing, sin**
    - B. Speak against the Holy Spirit will not be pardoned.
    - C. Eternal condemnation is just penalty according to just God
    - D. **Testimony:** Motorcyclist who mocked that the Holy Spirit was the engine of the motorcycle/moped. As he travelled down the bottom of the road, he died.
    - E. For those who do not know God, such would be condemned, but for those who were “in Christ” and then depart from that kindness of God there is no second chance from God. **Why?**
    - F. Abuse grace of God who made us alive from identity of dead in sin to prince and power of the air.

E. **To receive riches of His grace?** –

- ① invites favourable reaction, graciousness.
- ② favour, grace, gracious care/help, goodwill
- ③ practical application of goodwill, deed/gift.
- ④ generosity, favour
- ⑤ response of thanks, gratitude
- God’s kindness, help to care for you to remain alive in the good of God.

C. **What is the good of God through Jesus Christ for Him to identify us to become made alive by God in this way?.**

- A. Acts 11:23 –
- B. Rom 3:24 –
- C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Thes 1:12 –
- D. **1<sup>st</sup> Tim 1:14** -
- E. Heb 4:16 –
- F. **Acts 4:33** –
- G. **2<sup>nd</sup> Jn 3** -
- H. Jude v4 –

**Eph 1:8**

which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

**To abound in Christ?**

- o ① to be in abundance, abound
- o ② ) to cause something. to exist in abundance, cause to abound
  - Experience His wise words, skillful living to us
  - Experience His care from God to us

- Our identity improves when we willing to accept His wisdom and care for our good.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 9:8 – Learn to experience sufficiency from God

This allows for contentment for what God provides what is good identity according to Him.

1<sup>st</sup> Thes 3:12 –

- **11** Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.
- **12** And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,
  - Increase in love, grow in love
  - God has caused, and the Ministers have experienced this
  - Blessing to the elect

**Eph 1:9-14**

Partnership in God's purpose

- This section reveals what God has been willing to share with the elect through His works, as our response to truth in Him. We see the inheritance He wishes to give, the testimony of His word to help us obtain salvation and the Holy Spirit.

**Eph 1:9**

having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

“...according to His good pleasure”

- All things in Christ in Him in heaven and on earth.
- Strengthened identity according to Christ that s in Him.
- Identity that is stronger, definite, pleasing to God in Jesus Christ
- Joyful identity according to Him, rather than according to us.

**10** that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both a which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

**Eph 1:11-14**

To pursue spiritual inheritance. This is spiritual blessing, the wonderful inheritance of heaven and the seal of the Holy Spirit.

Preparations from the LORD

- Trust in His authority and works has allowed us to consider and accept with conviction; the word of truth, the Holy Spirit, redemption.
  - From these works of God, we can
    - praise and glorify His name (v12, v14)
- ...the praise of His glory

Identify and react to His works through praise to God over time:

- We can praise God for His glorious works towards us:
- inheritance we have received
- His authority and the word of truth is trustworthy and we testify how we relate to His existence
- Praise God for the receiving the Holy Spirit when received
- Praise God relating to redemption

God saw their progress & saw their willingness to co-operate:



- Observed our hearing and keeping His truth
- Saw our willingness to respond to salvation He made available
- His willingness to seal us with the Holy Spirit

**Lesson:**

- When the Lord sees our willingness to connect with appreciating His works, then our identity strengthens in conviction by:
  - we testify and acknowledge His glorious works.
  - Works of God upon us is praiseworthy

**Summary of Lesson:**

- Without these spiritual blessings from God, we find that we are incomplete.
- We also discover God willing to make us complete in Him willing to do what world is not really able to provide.
- God Himself has transformed our life for the better through Jesus Christ, whereby we can testify that our life has gained greater abundance in God.
- These spiritual blessings confirm the work of God through Jesus Christ that we belong to Him through His work.
  - Acceptance
  - Assurance

**11** In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

**12** that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

**13** In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

**14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

**15** Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

**16** do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

**How can we reap or receive these spiritual blessings?**

- When we affirm our identity as being “in Christ” and Christ sees our willingness to be found by the Lord in that position/identity.

**Eph 1:15-23**

**The Apostle’s prayer for insight**

- This section concerns what Apostle Paul prays for and why. The saints of Ephesus and those faithful will discover the fruit to hope in the Lord, and through this experience to know God more clearly His hopes for them, the identity He builds in us so that we inherit riches from Him, and manifest His might and power towards us. We also can appreciate the Church that He has established, and His authority as the head of the Church.

Paul intercedes for the Church whereby:

- Believers are enlightened to hope in God through wisdom and revelation revealed to them.
- To learn about the authority Jesus Christ has been entrusted to be the head, and the believers can experience the fullness of God.

**Eph 1:15-18**

**Eph 1:15**

Hearts that see with hope

Paul intercedes for the Church. – **Church intercession**

- Faith and love for saints affirmed and testified as “praiseworthy”

- Their mindset prompted response of gladness

Lesson:

- Faith and love in Christ is learned and identified.
- When identified as praiseworthy:
  - Acknowledged
  - Recognised
- Faith and love in Christ are good descriptions for identity in Christ, yet Paul interceded for brethren to gain more identity in Christ:
  - wisdom in knowing Him
  - revelation in knowing Him.
  - **Why intercede for brethren to have these? To** improve capability to discern to know principles of the Lord Jesus Christ, and how He can help the individual and brethren alike. To know God well.
- Considering the blessings we have attained in Christ (Eph 1:1-14), His works in us should perfect towards faithfulness to Him and to love what is of the glory of God - honourable

Eph 1:17 To obtain spiritual wisdom to know God truly. It is important to know God well.

- Pursue with diligence
- Develop, build, and increase

Eph 1:18 To ask God to open the eyes of our understanding.

- "...eyes of our understanding" in some versions refer to "eyes of our heart"
- Attention from eyes (Mt 6:22-23)
  - Full of light – Power (Positive)
  - Full of darkness – Power (Negative)
  - Consider impact and outcome of behaviour.

Lesson

- The work of God will manifest perfect time for those truly in Christ to glorify God.
- From prayer, we can discover means to connect with God to build up identity according to Him. Foundation of identity in faith and love is strengthened by prayers, as it wisdom and revelation.
  - Like observing Ten Commandments to love God and love man
  - Faithfulness towards what God established

Testimony - A sister had acidic content in her blood, so took medication. There came a time when she stopped taking medication, and one day watching television, she lost her sight in one eye. The doctor poked a needle in her eyeball to remove puss. Doctor said after a few days, there would be complete loss of eyesight, while the other eye had weak eyesight. The sister asked her husband to read the bible to her, Jesus healing the blind (Jn 9). She was doubtful whether Jesus could heal 2,000 years later. She prayed daily. Yet she identified what Jesus did to help the man born blind, and asked her husband to read the passages from the Holy Scriptures. Eventually, one day, she saw a light. The doctor thought it was impossible because the retina was destroyed. The Lord Jesus enabled her to see, and caused her to see spiritually.

The riches of His glory and inheritance in the saints, allows us that we could be justified and His glory shine through us. This allows God to be glorified, bringing glory to Him. This is a further spiritual blessing when we are in Christ.

- Appreciate The Lord's answer from His mercy and favour through prayers.
- Alter established before the Lord matured for her to identify and relate with the Lord.

Eph 1:19-21

### **Experience with Christ's Victory**

**Eph 1:19**

and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

- **What is greatness of His power towards us?**
- The rich favour of His own blood to purchase us, to pardon us, and give birth to us (Eph 1:7)
- God demonstrate greatness of His power through His word of truth, His plan of salvation to save man, and to seal those who believe Him with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:14).
- For us, we can:
  - Appreciate that His means and ways to manifest His power upon us
  - Discover the greater identity of Christ in us for cooperating with His word of truth.
  - Acknowledge how He continues to transform our identity, as we willingly abide in His words.

**Eph 1:20**

which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

**Eph 1:21**

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

God worked His might in Jesus Christ, and His might is to resurrect is the same might and power to resurrect us from the dead:

- **How can we identify with the work of God here?**
- Jesus Christ seated in the heavenly places. When we identify with Jesus Christ, we also are made to sit in places within heaven (Eph 2:5).
  - Water Baptism
  - Faith in the working of God (Col 2:12-13)
- Above all principality and power.
  - The Church is to closely relate to Jesus Christ as their Head of the Church.
  - God will establish His Church, overcoming the power of Hades, and save mankind according to the truth. The glory of Christ shall be manifested through His Church - TJC
  - There is movement of the Holy Spirit and there is baptism of the Holy Spirit (which includes reception and indwelling of the Holy Spirit). Usually we include the seal of the Holy Spirit in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The seal is evidence which can be inwardly, while baptism is outwardly. Now we have movement of the Holy Spirit (hear a sermon, shed tears) and reception of the Holy Spirit.

- Lesson:** Jesus Christ is the only great name for which we must be saved, or we shall not be identified as saved:
- According To Him
  - According to Him through His Church.
  - We can see the perfect example and impact of God's power through Jesus Christ.
  - When we see the works of Jesus Christ 2,000 years ago and present day, we see the works of God through over 100 years in history of TJC.

**Eph 1:22-23**

**Church is the body of Christ**

**Eph 1:22**

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

**Eph 1:23**

which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- **....and gave Him to be the head**
- Identify Christ is the Head to the Church
- Identify things under feet of Jesus Christ is to submit to Him.
- Identify your submission to Christ and His Church
- You, together with old and young relating to Jesus Christ can experience a greater identity according to Christ.
- To share and receive from the giver, Jesus Christ Our Head.
- When identity in Christ is seen by brethren, virtues should shine among our classmates or colleagues at work.

**Lesson:** When we don't sincerely relate to Christ through His Church, we are unable to fully submit to Him. However, when we submit to Christ and do so through His Church, we shall not lack the fullness of what He is willing to share with His people.

- Man can identify fullness of God through Church of Christ (TJC)
- ....the fulness of Him of fills all in all
  - Man can become sensitive to both discern and know the Spirit of God is in the Church even though such have yet to receive the Holy Spirit (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:22, 24-25)
  - **Testimony** – A truth-seeker from Muslim background entered the Church reception area for the first time unknowingly heard brethren speak in tongues, and asked “where is that wind coming from?”
    - **Description of the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:8-9, Acts 2:2)**
  - God Himself caused her to learn what is the Holy Spirit, and to understand that the God is truly among the believers. She was willing to pray with congregation after hearing the word of God.
  - Identified, indirectly, the power of God was in the Church. Identity was attractive to acknowledge.

**Lesson:**

- Church inherit God, Church inherit Jesus Christ –
- The Head guide and lead, while the body – the saints and faithful -will discover He is “to the Church” and to the brethren.
  - Love and commitment Jesus Christ to His Church, we in return should devote fully to Him.

- Observe and reflect on His bond of love, commitment, devotion BOTH to you and His Church (Spiritual family)...ownership and belonging.
- Reciprocate bond to be “to Him” and He is to us. If not, then we have not perfected the bond that the Lord established and remained firm. **How can we maintain this bond between the Lord and us so that identity with Christ is clear?**
  - Love and commit to God
  - Love and learn to love His ways and teachings...even times of His discipline for our good (Heb 12:9-11).
  - Meditate on word of God to strengthen devotion to Him.
  - Not depart from His Church; encouraged in prayers, encouraged by word of God, strengthened by God directly and indirectly through brethren (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 1:3-3).
- Remain faithful we will discover much from Him to us
- God is willing to give to those who remain submissive to Him always. If not, very little gained through us rejecting Him.
- **TESTIMONY** - Sis Hope Ononuju, Nigeria (Manna 75)
  - Sceptical about TJC.
  - Attended Youth Camp (3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014)
  - Encouragement to pray earnestly to receive Holy Spirit
    - Vision – Darkness in midst of brethren –
    - Voice confirmed lack mutual love between brethren
    - Great and bright light appeared –
    - Voce confirmed that brethren earnestly repented, so now love within hearts
  - Four men in white robes; two in front, two at the back door. They help distribute cups to all except her.
  - Wept bitterly to request to receive cup
  - Conversation between God and her: **“How long have you been in TJC?”**
  - God has been waiting six years for her to accept the Church and her doctrine...all time given to believe, yet refused.
    - Issue: Holy Spirit sent, but due to loving things of world she rejected His Spirit.
    - Repentance – Followed by receiving gift of cup and Bible.
    - Verse meditated: “These things I have spoken to you that you should not be made to stumble” (Jn 16:1).
- **LESSON**
  - Truly believe TJC is the ONLY True Church
  - Hope’s desire to serve the LORD
  - Voice told her to go and preach to win souls for the house of God.
  - When we relate to the word of God through Jesus Christ, when we grasp and take root in His word, when the Lord examines how we relate to Him, it will determine whether our identity is stronger or weaker in Him.
  - Invest time to strengthen our identity by:
    - Embracing His word
    - Conviction to accept and do as appropriate

**Chapter Two**  
**Eph 2:1-22**

**Believers Identity: Their Past, Present and Future**

As the believing member continues to cherish the heavenly call to every spiritual blessing, s/he is reminded of their identity of the past, their identity in the present, and also their identity in the future;

- Reminder of the past: Order of the living dead, separated and hopeless without God
- Reminder of the present and future: The faithful in Christ to appreciate God's love and union to Him.
- Appreciate the body of Christ, His Church, which He has established and built through the work of the Spirit.

**Eph 2:1-3**

**Past: Order of the living dead**

**Eph 2:1**

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

- .....dead in trespasses and sins.
  - Alive from trespass and sins
  - Past identity - Dead to trespass and sins
  - People who live in sin has no power to overcome it, including the death of the physical body. Also, separation from the life of God, which is the second death.
  - First death – die in sins, because of Adam. Including loss of spiritual life (Rev 20:6, 14)
  - Second death – Being thrown into the lake of fire. The first resurrection is water baptism.
- There is death in the physical body and there is death in the spiritual body.
- Resurrection (Jn 5:25) – Those who hear the voice of the Son of God will live, which is the resurrection of the spiritual life, and gain the fruit of the heavenly call
- Jn 5:28 – Physical resurrection.

**Eph 2:2**

in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

- Past identity to relate to evil trends world offers as means of life. To lure/entice people away from God.
- Satan will try his best to defeat the creation of the world. This is spiritual warfare that works in the heart of man to rebel against God, allowing one to be a child of disobedience

**Eph 2:3**

among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

- Identify and relate to walk in own course/path/direction, not heavenly course/path/direction
- Object of wrath, to pursue their evil desires, indulge in sin.
- However, through the salvation and great love of the Lord Jesus, we can be made alive again. Spiritually, we die, buried and resurrect with the Lord.

**LESSON:**

The perfect way to overcome sin, death and disobedience is through Jesus Christ. **How can we experience overcoming sin, death, own desires and disobedience, so that we eventually identify with Jesus Christ?**

- Fully appreciate work and power of God through Jesus Christ to make us alive in Him.
- His mercy for us to be transformed.
- His love and compassion shared with us.
- Jesus Christ give man a second chance to live again, according to the Spirit. We are to seize this perfect opportunity to confirm we truly wish to be in Christ.
  - Accept His opportunity to be made alive through Him
  - Preserve precious identity in Christ to then not abuse His grace/favour to make us alive again!

**Eph 2:4-10**

**Present: Order of God's loving life**

- For this section we can appreciate the heavenly path and blessing God has established for us, for us to express our gratitude to God on this heavenly path according to God.

**Eph 2:4-5**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

- To relate to depth of God's mercy, love of God through Jesus Christ to make us alive from impact of sinful body.
- God could have left us to continue with identity of sinful body and nature, yet care to consider man to receive better identity that is good that glorifies intention of Creator - to create in us a new life not under course of world or influences/persuasions of Satan - the prince and power of the air.
- Significance of His work
  - God made us alive (Eph 2:1, Eph 2:5).
  - We cooperate to abide in His word with faith acceptable to God in order to experience the desired effect according to God....to be made alive by Him. Col 2:12 –
    - **12** buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
    - **13** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,
  - Identity of God, that should be in us towards Him;
    - Genuine believe He is your Savior, and His method to save....Water Baptism through His Church
    - Conviction of faith in work of God
    - Together with Him
  - HOWEVER, If not, we continue in same identity making Him a liar, when God is not a liar, so His truth is identified not in us:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Jn 1:8-10 –
    - **8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
    - **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all righteousness

- **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Identity not of God, that should not be of us towards Him;

- Deceiver of self
- No true / untrue
- Unfaithful
- Liar
- The experience of the heavenly call:
  - From childhood, or infant (subject to faith of parents)
  - From adulthood (personal decision)
- Significance of the heavenly call
  - God work effective power to pardon your sin, experience His salvation grace to make you alive for blessed heavenly call prepared for His kingdom.
  - **How do we know we need to pass through the Water Baptism to experience this desired effect?** - 1<sup>st</sup> Pet 3:21
  - **Why do we know we need to pass through the Water Baptism to experience this desired effect?** - (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:50-51)
    - So much more is accomplished as we abide in Christ as a new creation with a heavenly call than without Him.

#### Eph 2:6

and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- In Christ Jesus, be raised together with Him.
- In Christ, made to sit together in heavenly places
  - To greatly appreciate love of God upon those who used to walk the course of this world in exchange for course of the heavenly call
  - You can appreciate He identified to include you in His arrangement.
  - To sit together in the heavenly places - The grace of God. We shall sit together with Him on high in the heavenly realms.
  - For those who belong to heaven can rejoice, chosen and cherish precious thoughts of God to us.

#### Eph 2:7

that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- **Reflection on grace of God that is indeed rich, identified by God who gave to us.**
- The exceeding riches of His grace. Grace is transferred to future generations.
- **Testimony:**
  - One occasion for Water Baptism whereby the parents, child and grandchildren were baptized.
  - Same grace of God bestowed upon three generations.
  - They also all received the other sacraments that concern their salvation; Sacrament of Footwashing and Holy Communion



- Footwashing (Prov 4:26-27)...Heavenly call possessing a spiritual path, just like Jesus departing the world for heaven.
- All identified in Christ and His plan fulfilled fruitful purpose.

## Eph 2:8-9

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

not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- The gift of God to allow for and to prepare for salvation
- It is not our works or merit, but the works of God
  - Salvation by grace through faith. Grace was freely given out of His grace to provide redemption.
    - Redemption? – (Eph 1:7)
      - Power of His grace is to forgive sins and to help us remove bad habits and to have power to renew and transform ourselves....**redemption in order to remove bad habits that cause us pain**. Therefore, gain good identity in Christ in plan of God to match requirement for kingdom of God.
      - Man has to answer through his faith, because it is by grace through faith. To willingly accept God's salvation, to trust His preparation, giving our worries to Him, which is faith.
  - Acts 3:16 –
    - **16** And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.
      - **The bad habit of the man at the beautiful gate – carried to the gate, laid outside the gate, asking for help daily.**
      - ...Faith that comes through Him:
        - God is faithful
        - God can increase our faith, so as we learn this from Him, see how He gives, then we are identified before God that we trust, and He witness evidence that we trust His word.
      - Grace and faith comes from God Himself (Acts 3:16). God gave perfect soundness of faith. The Pharisees boasted of all the good they did, while the prayer of the Tax Collector was more righteous and justified by the Lord Jesus Christ.

### LESSON:

- The mercy of God and the grace of God is the perfect means for us to experience the blessing of His preparation to save us.
- Without His mercy and grace, we find that we are unable to discover this change in identity acceptable for His kingdom.

## Eph 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- The creation of man *is* the creation of God.
  - The creation of man is marvellous. Now through Jesus Christ we are created anew in Christ. This also is the work of God. Paul said this is the great power of God.
  - The great power of God has changed us for good identity accepted in Christ. Man did not have any merits that He saved us.
  - Purpose of man - The object of man is to do good, by obeying the will of God, doing good works yet not seek his own glory. Principle of Christians are to:
    - Glorify God and edify man which is beneficial. Man is to fulfil the righteous requirement of God (Micah 6:8, Mt 11:29, Ecc 12:13).
    - Remain determined in heart to glorify God and to benefit man, for which God can be glorified. Then we find ourselves called to the requirements of God.

### LESSON:

- Sometimes, when we have completed our task, such may say to us "Perfect" or "Excellent" – **yet why identified?**
  - You fulfilled what they required you to do
  - Obedience matches requirement
- We are what is created/made by God.
- Blessed in Christ and walking in this heavenly call.
  - Works God prepared beforehand have created purpose to fulfil – do good, and continue in it
- Goal – do good, walk in that good. Continue in good of God.
- Goal with perfect outcome according to God's will (Rom 12:2), yet:
  - **Are we willing to become responsible to fulfil the goal and purpose God created these works?**
  - **Can we accept that good work from God?**
  - **Are we willing to walk in that good of God, where there is His perfect arrangement of works to fulfil?**
  - Sister shared; "**We have our calendar, yet God has His calendar.**"
  - You cannot really change the Calendar of God. Just like man plans his ways yet God directs his steps (Prov 16:9).
    - Teacher and Line Manager will direct our steps. Such observe whether we relate to requirements.
    - The Heavenly Man will direct our steps when we are willing to obey Him. When we relate to His requirements, then He identifies we are obedient to His requirement.
- LESSON:
  - Unless we cooperate with the Creator, His good purpose will not be manifested through us. God will prepare someone else, due to our rejection of Him. God desires us to fulfil His good. **Why?** Man can be benefitted in the good of God.

## Eph 2:11-12

### Past: Separation and hopelessness

**Eph 2:11-12**

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--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.**

- **Past – Nothing to do with the Kingdom of God, identified as uncircumcised and a foreigner. No rights.**
- **Later, the favor of God – 1<sup>st</sup> Pet 2:9-10**
  - This is what it means to be a Gentile before believing Jesus Christ, uncircumcised and nothing to do with Him. God promised a Savior through the Jews.
  - God made His covenant with His people (Gen 12, 15). There is Abraham, Moses, David. Without God there is no hope, so when man left God there was nothing, just toil, labor and vanity.

**LESSON:**

	UNNACCEPTABLE IDENTITY (Past)	PERFECT IDENTITY (Now)
Identification	Gentile – not know God (1 <sup>st</sup> Thes 4:5)	Christian – know God
Privilege	Without Christ – Alien / stranger *Unwelcomed & Not known/recognised	With Christ Belong to Christ “welcomed, recognised, accepted
Immediate and future outcome	Hopeless and without God *No clear direction in the good of God	Hope in God and remain with God  *Hope that has direction and purpose

**Eph 2:13-18**

**Present/Future: New union and present peace**

- For this section we discover the working of Jesus Christ. His perfect works to
  - give His peace to the believers,
  - To remove hostility to strengthen our connection to God due to our nature in the flesh
  - For us to appreciate the steps the Lord has taken to bring us closer to Him.

**Eh 2:13**

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

- Now Gentiles brought near by the blood of Christ.

**LESSON**

- So many denominations only emphasise that Christ died for us. **TJC emphasise that we are connected to His blood through the one Water Baptism**
- Jn 1:12-13 – Born not of the blood of man, but blood of Christ.
- The connection to the precious blood of Jesus Christ and born of Him, is a bond that truly testify that we belong to Him.
- **How best to cherish this identity and connection?**

- To experience the perfect step to the heavenly calling “to put on Christ” through water baptism and redemption (Gal 3:27, Eph 1:7)
- To watch and keep garments Christ gave us to cherish - precious (Rev 16:15). Even more so, although we have received the perfect garment of His blood (spiritual clothing that Christ chose for us to adorn), the devil will seek to remove it.
- **LESSON:** Unless we watch and keep garment Christ gave us, devil will aim to remove to expose shame through poor vigilance.

“But now” - ?

- The brethren were now living in the perfect work of Jesus Christ, identified in Him and prepared according to Him.
- Now they were to cherish.
- **LESSON:** Today, we must also cherish what Christ has “now done” in accomplishment, and not turn away from that new identity that Christ has perfected.

### Eph 2:14-15

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

#### ▪ **LESSON:**

- “Himself is our peace, who has made both one”
  - Peace is to bring Jews and Gentiles together. The Jews were to be trained in godliness, yet later He chose the Gentiles so that He would be the Savior of the world.
  - Jesus Christ has not only brought Jews and Gentiles together for purposes of salvation, **but has also brought our own self to Him.**
  - Whatever barrier we put up before the Lord Jesus in the past (and present), He also helped break down in order for us to eventually reconcile to Him.
- “the middle wall of separation” breaking down enmity.
- **Enmity?** –
  - The Lord Jesus broke down what restricts people to draw closer to God, that is hostile in their relationship with God.
  - Ordinances whereby there are sanction they must do that **became hostile and conflict behaving in the flesh.**

Rom 2:25 –

- Enmity because we did not pursue the keeping of the law with the correct spirit, or we become at conflict with God, the meaning behind circumcision.

Col 4:11 –

- The identity to be of the circumcision.....the veil lifted, and the conflict removed and such have truly turned and submitted to God.

### Eph 2:16

and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

- Jesus reconciled man with the Father, whether Jew or Gentile. There is no separation of nationality.

- Member States of European Union
- Olympic Games with about 200 different nationalities
- Different Colleges and Universities

**LESSON:**

- In Christ, through Him, we can experience His peace and reconciliation.
- By abolishing the enmity contained in the ordinances, the people of God could discover more perfect arrangement by God; closer to Him, not concern about law contained in ordinances.
- **Today, we must let go of what hinder us or prevents us drawing closer to identify our relationship with Christ**

**Eph 2:17-18**

And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

▪ **LESSON:**

- “He came and preached peace to you who were afar off”
  - Whether near or far away from Jesus Christ, He desired to identify with man through Gospel of God;
    - far-reaching to heart
    - impartial for opportunity to relate to Gospel of God
    - Reflect on willingness to abide in His word to experience abundant life through Him and with Him...peace not of this world –
      - Transform identity how we now see Jesus Christ
      - Transform behaviour how we react to those in Christ because of mindset of principles to worthy to remain in Christ
      - Transform behaviour how we react to people of the world who don't know God because of mindset of principles to remain in Christ
  - Be thankful considering that we were strangers and aliens before.
- Reconciled to God through Jesus Christ (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 5:18-20). God has given us this ministry, so when identified to receive Gospel of peace, then have greater sense of mission to preach to the world. Why? To help them reconcile to God, bringing a gospel of peace while seeing good of identity according to God for our benefit.
- “those who were afar off and near” – chance to access the Father.
  - Encourage Church brethren to mingle with other members from other churches of TJC.
  - To improve loving bond in Christ between one another.
  - Strengthen identity to be “in Christ”
  - Spiritual family strengthened when mind is on the things of Christ, and identify same shared concern (Phi 2:20-21).

- Without the work of the Spirit, we do not experience the privileges that are perfect which comes from God Himself. “Access” –
  - the right or opportunity to address God, —‘approach, access.’
  - We can discover a more perfect connection with God that will benefit and help our relationship with God, and the relationship of the Church with God
  - Without access to one Spirit, much could be withheld from relating to the heavenly call:
    - The heavenly call
    - The Articles of Faith of TJC
    - Discovering the True Church among 45,000 different denominations
    - God is not the author of confusion (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:33)
  - But the Lord did not withhold His good work towards us and His Church because of His great love, mercy, commitment.
    - When we obey the one Spirit – Spirit of God we discover true peace from Him, both to us, and of fellow brethren.

Rom 11:25-26 The Deliverer to come to save His people.

**How can the Deliverer save His people?**

Come from Zion, befitting the Commission of the Church who are to preach to the Jews so that they are saved by the means of God through His Church

**The role of Esau and Jacob in time has changed (birthrite lost from Esau and given to Jacob.....**The Church did not have the birthrite, but eventually given to the Church by God Himself.

**Eph 2:19-22**

**The Church: Christ and His body**

- **For this section we can see the establishment of the Body of Christ through the work of the Spirit.**
- We can appreciate the great depths He has gone to guide us towards this heavenly calling and pathway that is not according to man, but according to the Spirit of God. We can learn how to identify with God through Jesus Christ and His Church.

**Eph 2:19**

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

- “strangers and foreigners but.....fellow citizens with the saints”
- Before V After, Past v Present
- The change in identity due to Christ changing our identity, and willing to see good for Him to change us for the better.
  - Strangers and foreigners do not have citizenship rights. The situation changed to become citizens of the same household.
  - Behaviour can be aggressive, yet need to be “tamed by God” so that we have new identity of mutual respect and love because of God (Is 11:6-9)

- **LESSON:**
  - There are 200 hundred nations of the world, yet before God there are two nationalities; Jews and Gentiles.
  - Time to become tamed to obey God and to know identity according to God, acceptable to Him

**Eph 2:20**

having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,

- The temple of the Old Testament were built with many materials.
  - Today, the household of God built and assembled by His Spirit.
  - "...In whom you are also built together...by the Spirit" (Eph 2:22, Is 11:6-9)
  - Today we are building a spiritual temple whereby we manifest the work of ministry.....God's ministry, that is according to Him (Eph 4:12)
- Jesus Christ identify peoples, characters yet by His Spirit, assembly them to be in Christ and abide in His presence.
  - Great assembly
  - Great building together
  - Great foundation.
- **LESSON:**
  - We need to cherish the work of the Spirit who has assembled us to be of the household of God regardless of country, background, level of education...etc.
  - Jesus Christ saw you as important to include you by His grace
  - By His Spirit we are brought together, yet by His Spirit we do everything possible to preserve what God assembled, so we do not fight against His Church or preparations (Eph 4:3, Is 63:8-10).
- **The apostles and prophets received teachings direct from Jesus Christ, so this is the foundation of truth.** The prophets mentioned are not of the Old Testament, but are of the New Testament, who received revelation from God to preach His will (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 12:28, Eph 3:5-6). This is the whole foundation of the Church. **How is this identity strengthened in Christ?**
  - Identity of holiness
    - (Apostles, Prophets holy)
  - Identity of holy communication God makes known by His Spirit to His chosen
    - (...now made known by His Spirit)
  - Identity of united with the Spirit and unity with fellow servants who receive/agree to same message and of the Spirit of God
    - (...now made known by His Spirit)
    - (agreed identity: Jews and Gentles to be heirs of the same body, partaker of His promise yet partaker of His promise according to the Gospel of God that is true)

**Eph 2:21-22**

in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,  
in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

- Brethren are living stones for the foundation (1<sup>st</sup> Pet 2:4-5). As living stones we are to build the spiritual house, offer spiritual sacrifices of the Spiritual Temple for the Spiritual Temple. The city is an orderly and compact city, to become the dwelling place of God (Ps 122).
- **LESSON:**
  - Household of God built and assembled by His Spirit.
  - "...In whom you are also built together...by the Spirit" (Eph 2:22)
  - Made to drink into this one Spirit (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 12:13).

Assembled together & Built together

- Goal of our group project in College, University, work and Church – to bring about successful joyful outcome, and see the reward, and to identify the reward.
- Church works similar, yet time is needed for all to remain guided by the Spirit, and wisdom to submit to the Spirit that truly is according to God (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 2:10).
  - Unite to the deep things of God
  - You and fellow brethren, should be able to unite with same principle in the Spirit, thinking the things of Christ and agree to identity of decision.
- Continued gathering to allow all to learn together, appreciate building up/edifying according to the Spirit with goal to unite with His Spirit, and to preserve the unity of this identity, that is according to the Spirit.
  - Eph 4:11-13 – In His ministry and for His ministry
- As we are built together by the Spirit, we also need to learn by the Spirit in order to grow, mature and be strengthened by the Spirit
- **How does the Spirit help us today?:**
  - From His Spirit we experience His love, power and sound mind (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 1:7)
  - To strengthen our faith to perfect holy faith while preserving and protecting ourselves in God's love for eternal life (Jude v 20-21)
  - Identity in Christ strengthened in these areas.

We are maintain spiritual cultivation to build up connecting with the Spirit; learn, abide, co-operate, obey. Such identity stands out in the presence of God who can witness:

- Perfect devotion to God
- Perfect our devotion to the spiritual path
- Perfect our love for His Church and work of service between now and eternal life
- Protect us to remain in Him

**LESSON:**

- Without the gift of the Spirit, we fall into greater weaknesses, however with the Spirit, we can sustain the connection with God through His strength as we learn from the Spirit.



## Chapter Three

### **Briefly, this chapter has about two or three sections:**

- Eph 3:1-13 The Apostle Paul's Ministry and Message, concerning Paul appreciating the message and mystery of the Gospel of God, and within this, the mission and purpose in relation to the Gospel, and the how Gentiles are involved in the Gospel of God.
- Eph 3:14-21 Apostle Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Power. Paul gives praise and honour to glorify His name through prayers because the mystery of the Gospel is clear. However, Paul also wishes to saints to do the same, and yet experience this through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Eph 3:1-13**

#### **The Apostle Paul's Ministry and Message**

- For this section, we can learn how Apostle Paul [appreciated the ministry of the Gospel of God](#), that has revealed mystery.
- It is also for the [saints to learn about the mystery seen in the ministry of the Gospel](#) and yet discover God as a result, and discover through His Church.
- Today, when we relate to the ministry well, like Apostle Paul, we can relate well with the Gospel of God, and have greater awareness and impact of our identity in relation to the Gospel of God.

### **Eph 3:1-7**

#### **Stewardship Paul has been entrusted**

Apostle Paul explains the mystery of the Gospel of God

**1** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles--

**2** if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

- **3** how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,
- **4** by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),
  - **Mystery?**
  - The Mystery of the Gospel
  - There is Jesus Christ
  - Resurrection of Jesus Christ (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15)
  - Sacraments – Water Baptism (sins washed away), Foot Washing (to have a part with Jesus), and Holy Communion (to be resurrected through partaking)
  - The Church is a mystery of God
    - God will use His Church to manifest His grace and wisdom.
    - People are saved through the Church
    - Glory of God is manifested through the Church.

#### **LESSON:**

- We should remain aware of our identity in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - Awareness as prisoner in chains (Eph 3:1, Phil 1:7)
  - Identity of not being separate from Jesus Christ
- To show others the favor of God from this Gospel through identifying in what way to serve the Church and others from this Gospel – to receive His favor for man in order to benefit man.

- To understand how to relate more and more to Jesus Christ in the Gospel of God.
  - Should we not be clear with the above, we could lose our identity with mission and purpose rather than strengthening our identity in Christ and for Christ with sense of mission and purpose.

**When was this mystery written beforehand and briefly made known to the Ephesian saints?**

Eph 2:11-13 –

As reminder, the identity of the Gentiles before the presence of God:

- uncircumcised
- aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
- Not entitled to the covenants of promise
- Hopelessness
- No connection with the One True God on heavenly calling

**Eph 3:5**

**5** which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

- **Why is it that the Lord made known the mystery of revelation to Apostle Paul and then the Lord made known this to holy apostles and prophets? What does this tell us?**
  - God will reveal His will to more than one servant/apostle/prophet, and so more can grasp identity in relation to Christ
  - All are to receive according to God, so they can strive to gain perfect understanding of His will
  - All can strive to confirm agreement that what was received and searched of God, so each testify to same truth and cooperate in truth because God provide wisdom for all to discern whether to accept or reject the revelation, depending upon whether after examination it is of God or not before those of revelation (Acts 15:15-19, Gal 2:2-9)
  - Once accepted...the will of God can be communicated further for the benefit of the Church as a resolution (Acts 15:30-31, Acts 16:4).
- As with employment:
  - Meetings held by Line Management and senior management to oversee or steer decisions.
  - Report, update, confirm decision of changes and reasons for improvement...then execute/do what has been agreed.

**Eph 3:6**

**6** that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

**Mystery revealed**

- Gentiles are the same body of Christ, no more division between Jew and Greek. Every part of the body has an important function of the body, Jews and Gentiles being part of the same body.
- Gal 3:27-28 – “Partakers of the Promise”, which God gave to Abraham.
- From one body:
  - Heir of the body
  - Inherit with others (rights)
- Partaker of His promise
  - Share – relationship with Christ in His Gospel.
  - European Union (Member states of France, Germany, Ireland..etc)
  - Olympics and World indoor championships

- College/Uni friends –
  - Phil 1:3-5 – partaker in the Gospel of God - **How many will you meet again with 10 years from now?** Would we be able to share this mystery of the Gospel with them at that time whereby they respond positively to it, or will it be too late?
- **LESSON:**
  - Union or reunion may occur yet be more difficult to sustain because the values in life differ to you abiding in the Spirit of God, so pursue life with different identity.
- Eg You worship God on Sabbath and your friends are Atheist
- Eg You worship God on the Sabbath yet your friends are Christians worshipping on Sunday.
- Great events -
- Yet the great event from Jesus Christ is to save souls according to the truth
  - Mystery when you find you are related to brethren in Northern Hemisphere (Elgin) are related to those in the Southern Hemisphere (Australia) and Western Hemisphere (Hawaii), and Eastern Hemisphere (China) – Appreciate His perfect plan and work across
  - Great and perfect appreciation is the Spirit of the God at work towards the corner of the earth through His Church to all walk in this heavenly call to salvation. This is the great identity not of the world yet transforming people for the kingdom of heaven.

### Eph 3:7

7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

- Apostle Paul did not forget (mission, purpose and ability to do so)
- Gift and grace of God permits allows Apostle Paul to minister and witness for the Lord (Acts 26:16)
- God has strengthened Apostle Paul's ability alongside identity to minister and witness for the Lord.

### LESSON

- We can cherish identifying and cooperate with plan of God. When we progress further, and empowered to do more for Christ, we should not forget our humble beginnings (**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:10**).
- Mission, purpose and ability came from the LORD. Perfect mindset is not to forget and remain humble
- To acknowledge God perfected us to fulfil (more) requirements through His Church – His ability, and cooperate with His ability...the Holy Spirit.
- The Gospel of God, the mystery of the Gospel will emit power (Rom 1:16). We also emit power as vessels of God (Acts 1:8, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 4:1,7)

### Eph 3:8-13

#### **Stewardship each believer is given**

- **8** To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
- **9** and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

- Status as an apostle came when Paul was sent to the Gentiles, a steward to the gospel. The meaning of minister has a sense of serving. Origin or minister is from Latin which means “**servant.**”
- Apostle Paul as a Minister – **TO PREACH & TEACH & EXPLAIN** Unsearchable riches of Christ and cause others to see fellowship of the Gospel –
  - Apostle Pauls ability to do both
  - Not forget, ability came from the grace of God. Without this favour there is nothing to boast of. With this favour, to still take extra care as we serve or we will be overtaken in pride (1st Cor 15:10-11)
  - Minister of the Gospel of God preaches the word of God, so do so in that the recipient of the gospel will have change in value system of life.
  - When Paul preached his status or identity was very glorious, caring for others.
  - During his sufferings Paul had no doubts about his faith, which is glory to the Church. God entrusted the gospel to Paul, to make revelation to understand the mysteries of God (Eph 3:4). Prophecies were slowly being fulfilled. This allows for Gentiles to be fellow heirs to the promise.
  - When man sinned God enacted His salvation plan to the Jews, then Gentiles which is all part of His great plan. The saints of the Old Testament would not understand that the Gentiles would be partakers of the Gospel.

#### LESSON:

- Just as we know why we are College, University or at work, we should also identify reason and purpose why we are on earth before the presence of God, if not, we can lose sense of direction.
  - Identity to remain true in Christ in the presence of Christ and others.
  - We may be least among many, yet in Christ, we can discover His greatness working in our character.
  - God can help us to see what He wants us to see and know. God can make use of us to cause others to see what God wants others to see and know.
  - To serve according to the ability God has given us.

#### LESSON:

- “effective working of His power” –
- It is through the Church that the mysteries of Christ can be made known for the Church and newcomers to be benefitted/helped.
- Jesus Christ created opportunities for this fellowship in Him.

### **Eph 3:10**

- 10** to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,
- “principalities and powers” –
  - Col 1:16 – this refers to what is not of God - evil. It also is proof that Satan is not self-existing, because all things were created by God (Is 45:5-6, 14, 18, 22-23).
  - God created angels, so some angels turned from what they were to do, identified with behaviour of demons, so fell because they were proud, self-righteous and boastful, taking principalities and powers to ungodly motives (Jude v5-6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pet 2:4).

#### LESSON:

- God will share His wisdom for what we, His servants are to behave to do. Reason and purpose is fruitful when we obey with care in duty/task/mission He entrust us to do (Eph 2:10).
- The Church is to minister the things that is of the Spirit of God, faithful and loyal to truth.
  - Members can observe to identify whether we speak truth or not, behave to the truth or not, or hypocrite to the truth (1<sup>st</sup> Jn 4:6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:16-18)
  - Need to remain consistent whereby we are identified always to abide in truth. Always give our attention to this, know God also observe our ministering in His presence (Acts 13:2-3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jn 4).
    - **How does God manifest His wisdom through the Church?**
      - **Just as we are the workmanship of God through good works (Eph 2:10):...God will help His Church through what He makes known for His people in ministry to convey to others:**
      - Eph 4:11 – Whomever God has entrusted to become responsible in respective ministries.
      - The perfection of His wisdom being made known by the Church remains perfectly effective when:
        - We continue to remain loyal to the truth and correctly divide it (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:15).
        - Take root to keep His word by the Holy Spirit (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 1:13-14).

### **Eph 3:11-13**

**11** according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

- **12** in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.
- **13** Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

#### LESSON:

- New areas we can appreciate in our identity to be in Christ:
  - In Christ we can accomplish tasks because of Him and abiding presence to help us (Eph 2:10, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:10)
  - In Christ we learn to abide in confidence in according to Him, and experience the faith of Jesus when we overcome doubt (Acts 10:19-21, 27)
  - In Christ we experience the glory of God, and can witness the glory of God (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 10:17-18)
  - In Christ we learn not to lose heart (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 12:7-10, Acts 18:9-11)

### **Eph 3:14-21**

#### **The Apostle's prayer for Spiritual Power**

- In this section, because of the mystery being revealed from the Gospel, and witnessing mystery of the Gospel according of the truth, for example spiritual blessings in Christ and He giving life to His saints, Paul gives praise and honour to glorify His name through prayers. However, Paul also wishes to saints to do the same, and yet experience this through the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### LESSON:

- This can be experienced by any generation which is experienced through His Church:
  - To love the mystery of God that we are undeservingly included
  - To love God strength for us to experience His power to choose us.
  - To love God to help us grasp the mystery to share in the Gospel of God through His Church.

- To love the Church He established in Him to access the truth of the mystery of the Gospel through the Spirit.

**LESSON:**

The mystery of the Gospel of God will be made known through His Church. The truth of the Gospel is preached through those He has chosen from the True Church, identity of the Church in that:

- More truth-seekers Jesus Christ desires to save through His Church (1<sup>st</sup> Tim 2:3-4)
- Church, spiritual family increases and grows in Christ (Acts 2:46-47)
- True Jesus Church has Christ at the centre
- True Jesus Church will preach the perfect Gospel while defending the Articles of Faith for brethren to keep (Acts 2:42-45)
- True Jesus Church is according to God, not man (Rev 21:2-4)

**Eph 3:14-16**

**Strength by the Holy Spirit**

- **14** For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - **Apostle Paul identify reasons to pray to God**
    - Identify reasons, that build up, yet reasons worthy to reflect upon and pray to God:
      - Identified to be included as partaker of the promises of God in Jesus Christ
      - Identify with the grace of God to fellowship in His mystery
      - Receive wisdom from God when we remain in the Church of God
      - Identify the eternal purpose in Christ for which He accomplishes/fulfills
      - Mystery of the Gospel grows, and the Church of God grows physically and yet spiritually.

**LESSON:**

- We have a list of things to do for your studies that build up and yet associate with them.
- When we are in Christ, we find we have a list of things that increase, and yet we pray for
- **15** from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
- **16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,
  - The prayer of Paul:
    - We saw an intercession by Paul (Eph 1:16~). The first intercession is to see the great power of God. The second intercession is Paul's God-fearing attitude.
      - We are to learn to identify with the great power of God in Christ Jesus
      - We are to identify how best to fear God
    - V15 - This refers to the Church, those of heaven and earth is named under Jesus Christ. Everything comes from God.
    - V16 - "strengthened with might in the inner man" –
      - imply strength from the heart.
      - Imply to a person's spirituality to be strong.
    - It can improve through effort yet through the Holy Spirit, the riches of the glory of God.

- Enlightened by answers God has given from prayer requests to Him.

○ **LESSON:**

- When we are perfected in the strength from the LORD, then we are able to go forward:
  - To edify self (build self-up according to God)
  - Edify/benefit man according to God

**Eph 3:17-19**

Faith and love by Christ's indwelling

- **17** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—
  - Paul uses two analogies – a plant and to have a firm foundation, faith and love which is very strong. Love has a foundation, which can be genuine. Love is the greatest, greater than gifts, eloquence and good deeds (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 13). To have the love of God. The love is rooted and sacrificed.

**LESSON:**

- To allow the love of Christ to be identified in us and through us:
- **What is the fragrance of the love of Christ in our hearts? How can we prove this identity before God and man?**
  - Walk on earth to speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15)
  - Walk in the sweet smelling aroma of Jesus love, which He gave you to carry and identify with (Eph 5:2).
  - Understand the love of God with fellow brethren within the same body of Christ
- **19** to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
  - .....love of Christ which passes knowledge
    - Receive knowledge to love idea
    - Love passes knowledge enlightens us to greater depth of Lord Jesus Christ
  - Love more toward the spiritual needs. Preaching the gospel carries deeper meaning.
  - Whatever we do must compliment the spreading of the gospel. Our Church should still mainly focus on evangelism despite charitable deeds.
  - Lk 22:35 – principle Jesus set  
We should be careful when doing charitable deeds:
    - Loving man and loving God is only possible when we love God. God is foundation of love that is genuine.
    - Width (extent of love to all people, length (time from beginning to the end), depth (Christ going to hell to save us), height (Jesus came from heaven to earth).

**How best to comprehend the love of Christ with all the saints?**

- When we are willing to unite in the same faith – Articles of Faith (Eph 4:12)
- When we are willing to know the Son of God – Jesus is God manifested in the flesh to save (Eph 4:13).
- To a perfect man to the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ – Justification by faith (Eph 4:13).



- endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph 4:3)
- To preserve ourselves or keep ourselves in unity of the Spirit and body of Christ/Church (Eph 4:4-6).
- till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13).
- To unite together in the TJC Articles of Faith (Eph 4:13)
- To unite together that Jesus is God manifested in the flesh (Eph 4:13)
- To unite together in justification by faith (Eph 4:13)

### Eph 3:20-21

#### The Church and glory of God

- The Church is gloriously established and will continue in glory of God through generations
- Aspect of the glorious Church
- **20** Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
- **21** to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
  - Abundant grace of God.
  - God identify His Church, and give grace/favour because He has glory.
  - Church identity:
    - The Church, the bride of Christ, fully adorned, to be a glorious.
    - Members of the Church identified as precious stones, so should have beautiful virtues, so cultivate themselves, giving off good light.
  - TJC is over 100 years old since 1917, will mature according to God through many generations.
- LESSON:

TJC will advance in years, yet even though there are different generations, each generation should uphold same identity shone upon to keep/preserve/fellowship in relation to:

  - Unity of the faith through 10 Articles of Faith (Eph 4:13)
  - Resolutions of TJC, International Assembly.
  - Knowledge of the Son of God (Eph 4:13)
  - A perfect man to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:14) – faith justified by God, faith in Christ.

The above relate to our walk with God, yet this walk with God still remains a blessing to keep, spiritually.

- As, long as we do not harm His glorious sharing then we shall remain a testimony to it.

### Eph 4:1-6:24 **Our Earthly Walk according to God**

- For this section there are a few factors that help determine the believers earthly walk according to God that Apostle Paul identifies:
  - Responsibility to seek and abide in spiritual gifts for the Lord Jesus. This edifies Church in work and ministry.
  - To live a skilful life to preserve purity; to shine rather than pollute His love.
  - To live by the Spirit, love His guide through submission



- To devote to Christ, His Church, and our duty towards our spouse in marriage
- To know our roles towards our employer, family.
- To adorn the whole armour of God.

## Chapter Four

### Eph 4:1-16

#### **The believer's call to responsibility**

- The believers are to maintain this early walk according to God, **behave responsibly in relation to the gifts they have received**. To participate to serve in God's ministry determined by Him.
- **To preserve identity in Christ with integrity according to God**, by not imitating the old way of life according to the prince and power of the air, rather that new creation of righteousness and holiness from the perspective of God (Eph 2:2-3, Eph 4:24). Learn to "put off" what does not help us but "put on" what helps our identity in Christ.
- Through good diligence to responsible earthly **walk according to God in line with the new creation God intended**, whereby He is delighted, not disappointed with our walk
- When such believers do so, they can shine for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 4:1-6

#### **Pursue unity with diligence – Foundation for Unity**

- God love to consider us, so worked to include us into His plan of salvation by establishing unity to guide us to His body, the Church, through the Spirit (Eph 2:19-22).
- However, we are to do our part in our earthly walk according to the calling of God, whereby we preserve unity established by God.

**Eph 4:1**

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

- To walk worthy of the calling which you were called –
- Faith and life need to be connected together (Phil 2:15).
- We have to hold fast to the word of life (Phil 2:16)
- **How can we remain worthy of His calling?**
  - **Cherish identity and noble status to remain in Christ** due to being called to His Spiritual blessings, yet the nature to remain devoted to God as His prisoner:
    - Responsibility and duty **not to forget His care towards us in works of redemption, pardoning, and grace by then turning our back on the good of God (Eph 1:7-8, Heb 6:4-6)**
    - Consider and devote to His calling us through devotion His Church by love for the Church (Eph 3:20-21)
    - To love indwelling of Christ in our hearts and to devote our hearts to abide in His word (Eph 3:17)
  - Now we have received words of life, we should relate to His light to then shine for Jesus as light of the world. We also become the salt of the earth. The children of God also need to have deeds to prove their truly abide with God. Whatever is from God is true, so we ought to be true before Him. As members of the True Church we must remain true believers (1<sup>st</sup> Jn 2:8). We have to bear a true witness for Jesus Christ.
    - After we have become chained to Christ, discovered His faithfulness, we should also be faithful not to bring knowledge of Him into open shame through irresponsible behavior (Eph 1:17-20 v Heb 6:4-6)

## Eph 4:2 -3

- Devote not to shame God in His word by becoming a prisoner by discerning what He requires from us. Remain in truth rather than devote self in lies and deceit (Eph 4:24 v Eph 4:25)
- Devote not to shame God, nor His Church
- Devote as a prisoner to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and yet not disappoint God by grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:19 v Eph 4:30)

with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,  
endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Identify the foundation for unity

- Lowliness/humility
- Gentleness –
  - you do not want to harm others. Need to pursue with determination to cultivate self.
    - Learn to manifest the gentleness of Jesus Christ (Mt 11:29)
    - Humility to correct those in opposition to truth (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:24)
    - Meekness – not weakness but a form of strength.
    - Prov 25:15 -
      - **15** By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone.
      - A gentle tongue can break bones (Prov 25:15).
        - 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5:9-10, 3-14 – Namaan & Elisha.
      - Need to cultivate self with heart of responsibility in order to witness effect
- Longsuffering –
  - Fundamental cultivation area to have a merciful heart to accept others and forbear over wrongdoing.
- To keep unity and bond of peace –
  - to be active to communicate.
  - It is not to forgive, yet not to communicate because in that circumstance there is no reconciliation.
  - To have protection of the Holy Spirit. When we despise another person, there is no way to have unity. Or if we have weird behaviour and thoughts then it is hard to achieve unity.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Thes 5:19 –
    - **19** Do not quench the Spirit.
      - Do not quench the Spirit (1<sup>st</sup> Thes 5:19). We should not cause God to become sad. Sometimes we may try to justify our actions even though God knows what is best for us, for example, not coming to Church or coming to Church late. Our conscience is pricked to know what is right from wrong. When our conscience is clear, we should not go against our conscience to identify right according to the Spirit of Christ.

When we look at man there is difficulty to retain unity, so we require:

- the Spirit of God, which is a burning flame to remove impurities (Isaiah 6:5-7). We may be hard-hearted yet the Holy Spirit can melt our heart and the heart of others to become one united body.
- regular Church attendance to be guided in a spiritual direction, creating a spiritual atmosphere in the Church.

- to look into the Bible and to act according to the Holy Spirit, so that we can have a calm heart on how the Spirit guides us.

Testimony:

- A brother experienced interpersonal relationship problems with his manager. The dislike grew between how the line manager behaved towards him. The brother took the matter into prayer, asking God to change the heart of him and his manager for the better, confessing they both were at fault. After two weeks, the atmosphere in the office changed for the better. Not only did the working relationship improve, other work-colleagues could see greater peace and question what changed in the behaviour of the manager towards the brother? The brother knew it was the work of the Holy Spirit.

**LESSON:**

We are called to the God of peace, and we become worthy of the calling when we adopt that good principle that is acceptable before the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Eph 4:4-6**

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;  
 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Seven criteria for unity:

- There is only one body, one Church – one church can have several locations, yet should be one spiritual body with the apostolic church and saints.
- One Spirit – members are of the same spirit.
  - The foundation of being together in the Spirit (Eph 2:19-20)
  - Those not Antichrist will retain true fellowship with Jesus Christ and one another (1<sup>st</sup> Jn 1:3-4, 1<sup>st</sup> Jn 2:19).
- One hope – the hope to have eternal life, a collective hope.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Pet 1:3 – another opportunity of the living hope granted to us, heaven which is incorruptible
- One Lord – Jesus is the only Saviour
  - Acts 4:12 –
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Tim 2:3-4 -
- One Faith –
  - the common faith of the Ten Articles of Faith.
  - If the faith is unified and the Spirit is unified then the body would be unified, related to our salvation.
  - There is no compromise with other denominations.

## Statement of Faith

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**Jesus Christ**, the Word who became flesh, died on the cross for the redemption of sinners, resurrected on the third day, and ascended to heaven. He is the only Savior of mankind, the Creator of the heavens and earth, and the **only true God**.

The **Holy Bible**, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is inspired by God, the only scriptural truth, and the standard for Christian living.

The **True Jesus Church**, established by our Lord Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit during the time of the 'latter rain', is the restored true church of the apostolic time.

**Water baptism** is the sacrament for the remission of sins for regeneration. The baptism must take place in natural living water, such as the river, sea, or spring. The Baptist, who already has had received baptism of water and the Holy Spirit, conducts the baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And the person receiving the baptism must be completely immersed in water with head bowed and face downward.

Receiving the **Holy Spirit**, evidenced by speaking in tongues, is the guarantee of our inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

The sacrament of **footwashing** enables one to have a part with the Lord Jesus. It also serves as a constant reminder that one should have love, holiness, humility, forgiveness, and service. Every person who has received water baptism must have his/her feet washed in the name of Jesus Christ. Mutual footwashing may be practiced whenever is appropriate.

The **Holy Communion** is the sacrament to commemorate the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. It enables us to partake of the flesh and blood of our Lord and to be in communion with Him so that we can have eternal life and be raised on the last day. This sacrament shall be held as often as possible. Only one unleavened bread and grape juice shall be used.

The **Sabbath day**, the seventh day of the week (Saturday), is a holy day, blessed and sanctified by God. It is to be observed under the Lord's grace for the commemoration of God's creation and salvation, and with the hope of eternal rest in the life to come.

**Salvation** is given by the grace of God through faith. Believers must rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue holiness, to honor God, and to love humanity.

The Lord's Second Coming will take place on the **last day** when He descends from heaven to judge the world: the righteous will receive eternal life, while the wicked will be eternally condemned.

- One Baptism –
  - Water Baptism is how we come into the doorway of salvation.
  - **Water baptism** is the sacrament for the remission of sins for regeneration. The baptism must take place in natural living water, such as the river, sea, or spring. The Baptist, who already has had received baptism of water and the Holy Spirit, conducts the baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And the person receiving the baptism must be completely immersed in water with head bowed and face downward.
  - Tit 3:5 –
    - **4** But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,
    - **5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit
    -
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Pet 3:21 –
    - **21** There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- One God & Father –
  - One True God, to introduce the God we worship
  - Father of all, because God has a father and son relationship with all of us, raised us and gives life and breathe
  - “above all” - God dwells in unapproachable light
  - “Through all” – we can worship Him and call on His name anywhere. His Spirit shall dwell in all. The Church can be unified when the Holy Spirit will dwell with everyone.
  - “in you all” – to dwell in us and comfort us.

### Why refer to the Articles of Faith?

#### Doctrine –

- Related to Church
- Common Belief
- Principle and based foundation upon (theory and principle, for which all members should have a common understanding).
- To know the correct path of salvation.
- To make the distinction between TJC and what He Himself has established, and that of other denominations established by man.

## Eph 4:7-11

### Humble mindset towards grace and use of gifts

- For this section we can learn about the sense of mission and purpose with gifts God has given us, and yet responsibility to maintain the correct mindset to those gifts.

The believer has a call from God's creative purpose to become His workmanship for good works (Eh 2:10). We would have a responsibility to cooperate with the LORD. From this section we learn that, while we are for His purpose and have a determined heart and zeal for this, we still need to behave responsibly in spite of the gifts God has bestowed upon us for His purpose.

Slogan - **"When the boss is away, the children are at play"** – So from this slogan, can we then say that employees are still behaving responsibly for the talents they are employed for?

## Eph 4:7

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

- The power and grace of God is unlimited, so it is based on capacity received. Some receive too much, so not good for them. However, a humble mindset reminds us not to be overly proud with service (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 12:7-9)
- God will give according to capacity. The source and origin of gift is through either the Holy Spirit, laying of hands, or indeed to ask for the gift:  
Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:12)
  - **Responsibility and mindset is for the Church**
  - **Seek to excel for the right purpose**

### Sometimes:

- We excel in our career, yet mindset is either for work, or for furthering our career elsewhere.
- From the above mentioned, it is for the Church of Living God, for TJC.
- Excel for God and His Church will indeed please the Householder – God Himself (Eph 2:10)
- Do not forget, gifted to use is not because of our abilities, but grace of God in being able to assist the Church. Apostle Paul had this mindset not exalt himself too highly, recognizing to whom praise is due....due to the grace of God (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:10) -  
But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:10)

Responsibility to serve and yet grasp the deep reason for being able to become responsible and made responsible.

## Eph 4:8-9

Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."  
(Now this, "He ascended"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?)

There are two gifts; Generic gifts, and special gifts.

- Generic gift –

- normal for everyone to receive.
- To be able to speak in tongues in prayer is a common.
- Sermon giving with tongues is a special gift (Ps 68:18).  
You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the Lord God might dwell there (Ps 68:18)

When Jesus Christ came He made use of death to overcome the ruler, and then when He resurrected, He poured out the gift of the Spirit (Acts 2:33). Jesus descended upon the earth, yet the lowest parts of it (possibly Hades to taste death for everyone) and then ascended.

**Eph 4:10**

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

**Eph 4:11-16**

**Grow in the ministry as part of the body**

- For this section we can discover the plans of God and His arrangement, to behave responsibly to that arrangement and expectations in our behaviour to God's ministry and His Church.
- Orderly arrangement God has established and reason and purpose

**Eph 4:11**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

**LESSON:**

When we are in the body of Christ we may find that the Lord Jesus Christ, being the Head of the body of Christ, He may choose use for His ministry in particular aspect(s) of His ministry. To be involved in His ministry is the gift of God and the grace of God.

Rom 12:6 - 8 -

- 6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
- 7** or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
- 8** he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- 9** Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

1<sup>st</sup> Cor 12:28 –

- 28** And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

Eph 4:11-12 –

- 11** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

**Eph 4:12**

for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

USA – Pastor

Other countries – Refer to preacher

- Deacon to Elder requires ordination.
  - Among other identities, the deacon should remain pure in conscience towards the ministry of the faith (hidden truth). A good

standing and boldness of faith is to be in Christ Jesus (1<sup>st</sup> Tim 3:9, 13).

- Preacher to Elder does not require ordination.
  - Careful selection of the elder is such that he should not be puffed up with pride or become under the same condemnation as the devil (1<sup>st</sup> Tim 3:6-7). He must have a good testimony from those who are from outside.

#### Eph 4:12

for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

- Purpose is to prepare God's people for work of service.
- God decide through His church, just as when He chose concerning Barnabas and Saul when they witnesses before the presence of the Lord (Acts 13:1-3).
- When we witness or minister in the Church, we should also be mindful that the Lord Jesus observes our ministering, just as He did to Barnabas and Saul; application, faithfulness, heart,,...etc.

#### Eph 4:13-14

till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Channel to identify maturity in faith and unity.

As we strive for unity and togetherness they should seek in the same manner to see the form of Jesus Christ in them and others. Not to be swayed by doctrine.

- There the five basic doctrines
- The Godhead
- Justification through faith

#### LESSON:

It is the will of God for us to be nourished in these areas: – Nourish? –

- Grow, and mature to always identify His will. How can we experience His will?
- Good, acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom 12:2)
- **Good** (prove, genuine to be good) – Examined and tested there is no fault. worthy of merit because standard is good.
- **Acceptable** – Does no harm to you, and does not harm to neighbour, rather examined and pass the test as helpful. Pleasing and generous
- **Perfect** – Mature and fully developed

The IA symposium (discussion paper) involves the passing on of faith in the True Church. Reason was to identify and confirm:

- the truth,
- spirit of service.

There has to be emphasis on basic beliefs. Once having the correct concept they would not be influenced by heresies.

#### LESSON:

For an employer, the expect the employee;

- To comply with legislation
- To good working practices and procedures according to the employer



- When there is lack of cooperation and training to continue in that good, we find that such can do more harm than good.

The foundation of faith, if not held tightly, it can be easily lost. As a result we are to uphold responsibility our faith with due care:

- MOT for the car, Car insurance are annual
- Our faith and maintenance is daily and weekly

Our responsibility to:

- hold fast to what is good (1<sup>st</sup> Thes 5:21)
- remain teachable and stable to the Scriptures by not distorting the word of God. This includes the basic beliefs of the TJC (2<sup>nd</sup> Pet 3:16, Jude v3).
- To grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (2<sup>nd</sup> Pet 3:18).
- To grow in knowledge and discernment in order to approve what is excellent (Phil 2:9-10)

#### How to pursue the above the above with diligence?

- Maintain the faith with devotion to prayer in the Holy Spirit. During our prayers we are to search for His mercy to guide us and preserve us for the reward of faithfulness and devotion to Him.....eternal life that He bestows (Jude 20-21)
- Walk carefully to understand what is the will of the LORD (Eph 5:15-17).
- To remain devoted to Christ as our head so that individually and collectively as the body of Christ, to allow His word to wash and cleanse our heart and conscience (Eph 5:5:25-26)

If not pursue and to preserve our faith:

- Faith becomes weakened
- Faith becomes shipwrecked due to rejecting the faith or common salvation of the Church (1<sup>st</sup> Tim 1:19-20)
- We can overthrow the faith of some by killing the truth when we speak against the truth (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:17-18)

#### Eph 4:15-16

but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- The Church is to be established as a spiritual entity that grows, united in love.
- Love will cause growth and affection
- Love based on the truth that is spoken is of greater reward, because there are no lies or deceit, rather joy (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 13:6).

Truth will edify, yet why?

- ① truthful and honest, truthful, righteous, honest
- ② accordance with fact, true
- ③ real, genuine, not imaginary

Mk 12:14 –

When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

Jn 7:18 -

If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

- From the Lord Jesus Christ, He explained to the way of God that has righteousness. We must relate to this.
- John the Baptist received the testimony from God concerning Jesus Christ, confirmed by the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the Spirit descending upon Jesus Christ (Jn 3:33).
- John, the disciple and apostle acknowledged the death of Jesus Christ and fellowship with Jesus at His resurrection (Jn 19:35, Jn 21:24)

### **How can we discover effective working of God's truth whereby we grow more, and yet bring us together in unity in Christ?**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Jn 2:27 –**

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

- **Elder John wrote with purpose that believers in Christ Jesus do not become deceived.**
- **The anointing Holy Spirit guides to truth and does not cause deception**
- **Anointing of the Holy Spirit will teach and guide, believers would learn this separately yet moreover learn this together.**
- **The Holy Spirit guides all to grasp the same understanding who works to strengthen one another to submit to Christ as their Head. Believers grow together in Christ by His Spirit. The Spirit of truth is true to them and us today (Jn 16:13). This them helps us to bear the fruit of the Spirit and strengthen us to keep that good (Acts 15:28).**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Jn 4:6 –**

We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

- Keep the teachings of the faithful apostles who keep the word of God
- Their teachings and explaining will manifest truth of God
- Discern in their teaching and application (Heb 13:7)

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Pet 5:12 –**

By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

- **Elder Peter could testify that Silvanus received and stood in the true grace of God**
- **Elder Peter could testify of other believers of Christ that received and stood in the true grace of God.**
- It could not be denied that the true grace of God brought them together, and that they abide in the Lord by truly standing firm by proving what is acceptable to God in order to discover His grace.
- We must strive to continue in mutual encouragement in such grace whereby we can all share in that received from God which comforts us. This responsibility is rewarding to pursue, cherish receipt of true grace, and yet to sustain this growth that will manifest His approval and acceptance we truly abide in His worthiness and favor that is according to Him
  - **Mk 16:20** – Grace and favor from God working with His disciples while they abide in His word and authority.
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Jn 1:2-4** – the sharing to abide in true fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Eph 4:17-5:14 The believers call to purity**

As Christians who walk on this earth according to Jesus Christ, we are to discern to know what will be helpful Christian Living according to Jesus Christ. As we living in this world we will discover a variety of principles. However, these principles may not be according to Jesus Christ, which is even more reason why we are to discern in order to do what is according to God.

For this section we can see about how the believer is to remain faithful by way of conduct/behaviour that is pure according to God while we live on this earth. When we discern in behaviour between what God rejects and what God accepts, we can learn to:

- cherish what is according to God in true righteousness and holiness according to Him.
- not cause God to be disappointed with us
- walk in such a way to dim the light of God
- avoid darkness yet to pursue what is light.

#### **Eph 4:17-19**

To refuse the carnal/worldly mindset

The section concerns the earthly walk of the Gentile, that is not according to God. We can see the impact of what they cherish without God

#### **Eph 4:17**

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Principle of life according to Gentiles, which is not according to God:

- Futile mind or empty thought
- Darkened understanding
- Choose to ignore abiding in the life of God
- Blind heart

**What has been the problem with man?** Man had the image of God, however, after man sinned, it entered the world (Rom 3:10-13). After man departed from God, the moral standard grew worse.

**9** What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

**10** As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

**11** There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

**12** They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

**13** "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; (Rom 3:9-13)

- In the eyes of man, Noah, Job and Cornelius were righteous before their generation yet in the eye of God are unrighteous.
- Before the eyes of God all are unrighteous before Him (Isaiah 64:6). There is a fundamental difference between those who believe and those who do not believe.

**LESSON:**

- The daily life of the members should be to pursue renewal of their life according to Jesus Christ and God (Jn 3:21, Jn 7:18)

For we who believe we are to discern to recognize how to walk with the Lord, which are opposite to the Gentiles who do not know God:

Identity according to man	Identity according to God
Futile mind or empty thought Darkened understanding Choose to ignore abiding in the life of God Blind heart Eph 4:17-19	Pursue wisdom and revelation Enlightened heart Abide in the hope of His calling Experience greatness of His power and work of His mighty power (Eph 1:18-19)

**Eph 4:20**

But you have not so learned Christ,

**LESSON:**

- A reminder to Gentiles who walked according to God, and yet now are identified as walking on earth as Gentiles according to God.
- Faithful v Unfaithful / Before v After / Then v Now

Those who have not so learned Christ:

- The ex-communicated
- Those delivered to Satan having spoken evil of the word of God, and spread this evil (1<sup>st</sup> Tim 1:20, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tm 2:17-18)
- Those who brought Jesus Christ into an open shame, so there no second chance because they crucify Christ in their deeds (Heb 6:4-6).
- Those who behave in ignorance (Eph 4:18, 1<sup>st</sup> Tim 1:13)
- Zeal without true knowledge (Rom 10:2-3)

**How can we learn Christ in ways acceptable to Him?**

Repent and remain willing to acknowledge our shortcomings and ignorance before God and man, in order to be clear before God:

1<sup>st</sup> Tim 1:12-13 –

**12** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

**13** although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

- Paul reflects on ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and compares; abiding in the ministry and not abiding in His ministry
- Irresponsible behaviour; perceive good but actual fact unknowingly harm
- Admit ignorance to Timothy, admit before the Lord.
- Mercy from God.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 4:1-2 –

**1** Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.

**2** But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

- The mercy we have received from the Lord helps us shoulder the ministry, and the mercy of God comforts us as we shoulder the ministry.

Mercy of God is like light for us not to return to old pattern of behaviour to corrupt goodness of God. This should strengthen ourselves how to obey God:

**Testimony –**

- One gifted Minister used mightily by God who learned the things of Christ in the ministry, later spoke out against the Church. He tried to justify immoral behaviours to be above the law but fell below the standard acceptable in the ministry – a light of hidden shame, craftiness, and handling the word of God deceitfully. Grace period over.

• **LESSON:**

Elder Peter mentioned about the standard of behaviour to be responsible to learning Christ in this ministry, so that as we learn Christ we subject ourselves to obey Him:

1<sup>st</sup> Pet 4:17-19 –

**17** For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

**18** Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, **Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"**

- Always give our uttermost attention to obey the gospel of God, to the extent that we are not judged with identity that we are ungodly and sinner unworthy of salvation.

**Eph 4:20-32**

**Creation - Remove the old but adorn the new**

- This section concerns reminding brethren of their responsibility to preserve the earthy walk, created anew and according to God
- To learn new creation by name, yet also nature
- To take responsibility with determination to cherish and treasure "new creation" according to God.
- To manage the "small aspects of character" that can cause big impact that we can experience and yet to take responsibility to rule over (e.g., anger, bitterness).

**Eph 4:20-22**

But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

**LESSON:**

Hear and study the words of Jesus, to remove the old self and put on the new self. We need to learn how to master "putting off" what does not help our new character.

**Eph 4:23-25**

and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

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

**Renewal of actions.**

- To speak truth – lies comes from the evil one (Rev, Zech, 1<sup>st</sup> Jn 2:22). Those who practice lies are the antichrist.
- To forsake all lies.  
Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son (1<sup>st</sup> Jn 2:22)

Those who continue to lie and deceive do not recognise the Lord Jesus.

- Mt 5:36-37 –
  - Oaths and to swear to try to hide their mistake. We should let our yes be “yes” and no “no”
- Jn 8:43-44 –
  - **43** Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.
  - **44** You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
    - Satan is the father of lies

**13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

- Give due consideration
- Prepare to evaluate, prepare to witness
- Evidence before the LORD
- Samuel who anointed David, there was a question whether he would be killed. God told Samuel to bring a cow.
- Those who are truthful, God will delight in them.
  - What has already happened is already clear, yet we must prepare our future meeting with the LORD.

Below are possible answers:

Put off:

- Deceitful lusts (Eph 4:22)
- Lying to our neighbour (Eph 4:25)
- Giving ground to the devil (Eph 4:27)
- Stealing (Eph 4:28)
- Speaking corrupt words (Eph 4:29)
- Grieving the Holy Spirit / Cause Holy Spirit to be disappointed with us (Eph 4:30)
- Bitterness, anger, wrath, evil-speaking (Eph 4:31)

Put on:

- Righteous deeds/behaviours according to God (Eh 4:24)
- Holy deeds/behaviours according to God (Eph 4:24)
- Speaking truth / willingness to speak truth (Eph 4:25)
- What is helpful (Eph 4:28)
- Speaking graceful/favourable words (Eph 4:29)
- Kindness, tender-hearted, forgiving (Eph 4:32)

## Eph 4:26

"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

### LESSON:

Do not be angry until sunset.

The anger was within Saul for a long time against David, and his jealousy towards David changed his life for the worse:

1<sup>st</sup> Sam 18:7-9:-

**7** So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands."

**8** Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"

**9** So Saul eyed David from that day forward

- Saul chained to jealousy, chained to seek after ending the life of David

Our parents, or lecturers can sometimes rebuke us. Ministers or teachers in God's ministry can sometimes rebuke, yet should rebuke in love. Whatever is said should be carefully spoken (James 3:1-2).

- Reason our encouragements with warning.
- Rebuke and criticise without the facts, reputation can be lost.
- The pulpit, classroom, church hall is an important area of frontline works for teaching and training

## Eph 4:27

nor give place to the devil.

Between men and people we should not be angry:

A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back

(Prov 29:11)

### LESSON:

The wise man would hold back his feelings, it would be hard to repair what is broken.

We may sometimes face unreasonable people, but we should not allow anger to rule over us.

If the person maintains his anger, it is a foothold for the devil to work. This includes many areas, lust and selfishness allows for Satan to work:

- Eve did not hold onto the word of God, David took someone else's wife.
- Judas having greed for taking offerings from the money box. Stealing includes stealing from their parents, who are like robber (Prov 28:24).

## Eph 4:28-29

Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

- Do things for edification, including our occupations
- Hands in what is good will become fruitful

- Sweetly spoken words will edify with refreshment
- Bitterness will hinder growth and progress of heart into heart of gladness.

**How can we allow our hands and words coordinate in such a way that we can indeed grow for the better, whereby we and others can experience refreshment from the LORD?**

1<sup>ST</sup> Pet 2:1-3 –

**1** Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

**2** as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

**3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

- Desiring the word of God causes us to grow.
- The grace of God causes our situation to desire His word more favorable and blessed.
- All deceit, hypocrisy, envy and evil-speaking can entrench our heart YET stop or greatly restrict our heart from receiving the purity of God's word by which we can grow.
- Internal conflict in heart of personal thoughts in relation to environment and interpersonal relationships; not at peace with others so respond in such manner OR gain solution as a principle in what to do, yet growth as a result of applying the principle. Why? We choke the growth of God's word by behaviors that interfere with growth according to the grace of God.
- Spiritual health-check of the heart that knows the cause and determination to end to what interferes healthy growth will restore us to that good and generous favor before God

**Eph 4:30**

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit

- Love v disappointment
- **How not to grieve the Holy Spirit or cause the Holy Spirit to be disappointed with us?**
- Reflect on cherishing the union of the Holy Spirit:
- The Holy Spirit will be good to you and others to bring good to all (Acts 15:28).

Jn 14:25-26 -

"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

**LESSON:**

- We can meditate upon His words, and the Holy Spirit can strengthen our reflection whereby we are less forgetful to His word.

**Eph 4:31-32**

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



And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

- Bitterness (sharp resentment) or harshness and arguments continue to surface and resurface until we are ready to back down. Then we are a peace, unless we are stirred up again.
  - Rom 7:16-21 (the struggle of Apostle Paul)
- **Why does it say “let it be put away from you...with all malice?”**

**LESSON:**

- We must hate those behaviors that is not helping our situation be according to God. We must learn to be “aggressive” not to allow that to return to be part of us, as his will stop us growing according to God. We already have this experience:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Pet 2:1-3 –
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 5:8 -
- Do not secretly harm others but forgive one another.
- Jesus did not secretly harm Judas Iscariot, hoping that Judas would continue in the good of the Lord when Jesus washed the feet of Judas.

Once we learn how “to put of” and to have “malice” towards what does not new the new creation, we can gain stronger love to the new creation.

**Chapter Five** **Be imitators of God to live a godly life.**

For this section there are three areas that believers are called to take more responsibility towards in everyday life

- To walk in the love of God, yet not pollute or dilute it to manifest purity
- To walk as children of light, so that we do not become overtaken in darkness, to help us preserve purity acceptable to God.
- The responsibility to maintain a careful walk according to God through wisdom and through the Holy Spirit.
- To take responsibility in the pathway of marriage:
  - Marriage to the Lord and His Church
  - Marriage in the Lord

Eph 5:1-7

**Avoid polluting or diluting love as we progress forward in this new creation according to God.**

- Encouragement is for the believers to become and remain imitators of God's love because from His love towards us, He became a sweet-smelling aroma.
- The lifestyle of the Christian in this earthly walk according to God should be fitting for His kingdom, an earthly walk that is not disobedient towards God and not cause God to be angry with us. Rather a walk that manifests we love God according to His preparations for us.
- To cherish the love by also affirming our love to God that is acceptable to Him.

Eph 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

- We are justified through righteousness.

- Our faith and actions should be united as one. If we have no action then our faith has no life.
  - We can reflect on the offering and sacrifice leading up to our conversion and acceptance of the True Gospel.
  - Baptism and post-baptism and post-Water Baptism should provide greater cherishing because we are identified as a new creation due to His offering to pardon through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- **What should we seek to become an imitator of God? How to become imitators of God?**
  - To love what God loves and hate what God hates.
  - We tend to imitate those who are of a good example by following them, considering their conduct (Heb 13:7)
  - Mt 5:45-48 – The principle Jesus Christ mentioned:  
But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
    - The perfect Father is One who does what is just
    - Justice, mercy and faith is applied, which He did out of love.
    - This is part of the offering from the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - **Mt 23:23 –**
      - Jesus Christ had eyesight to see this is good for those who follow God, yet the Scribes and Pharisees could not be that example for them.
      - Reason: Neglect.
  - **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
  - **47** And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?
  - **48** Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

**LESSON:**

- We need to follow after the Lord to be His child (Mt 5:45~).
- As we do things, it is not a responsibility, but doing things out of love.

**Eph 5:3-5**

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has **any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**

- Love a pleasant than unpleasant description/identity
- Esau was described as profane. He did not cherish his birthrite.
- We should not love to speak rude or offensive language

**Eph 5:6-7**

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

Therefore do not be partakers with them.

- A greedy heart is like an adulterer.
- We cannot love God and money at the same time, which is like worshipping the idols.
- Sometimes, we have to be very careful in Church when the wealthy speak too much. "Let no one deceive you with empty words" – words to bring people up but they are empty. **The disobedient will love to attract others to practice the same evil deeds.**
  - God will manifest his anger towards those who walk on this earth to deceive others, which is not according to God as principle
  - Impact:
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:17-18 –
      - Overthrowing the faith of those who were in the truth
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Tim 6:9-10 –
      - Deceived by temptation of riches which destroy. Stray from the faith to incur many sorrows
      - Impure motives and greed

The light will reveal what is hidden in darkness (1<sup>st</sup> Jn 1:5-6)

- Some brethren have diluted the love towards God due to above, we must make distinctions that we should not become defiled, and also fall through diluting the love of God through their behaviours.

#### Eph 5:8-14

##### Shine as bearers of light

This section concerns the responsibility to walk on this earth as children of life according to God. We can:

- discover what is acceptable to God according to the fruit of the Spirit.
- distinguish in our life between light and darkness. We remain in the light when we are truly awakened according to Christ

#### Eph 5:8

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

- Wake up V slumber in sin.
- We should not forget the great work of God towards us to help our progress and to take us out of pain and suffering:

Eph 1:7 – Work of redemption and pardoning, and grace

1<sup>st</sup> Pet 2:9-10 –

**9** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

**10** who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- God has manifested His work whereby we have a greater, yet with a greater purpose; To glorify His name through praises of Him as testimony, To have identity confirmed that we belong to Him.
- Should we not look highly to cherish this we find ourselves diluting His love.

- We became a fellow citizen in the house of God, with His saints (Eph 2:19)
- We are the new creation to shine for the Lord Jesus Christ
- We can only truly shine with the new identity the Lord Christ has established for us.
- All the more, we should make it our aim to devote to love God in the strength of our hearts, so that this moves the heart of God. Yet also, for others to discover the One true God through testimonies of praises for Him, and yet to benefit man.

**Eph 5:9-10**

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

- Goodness, righteousness and truth is fruit from the Spirit
- From the Spirit we can discover what is according to God.
- Fruit of the Spirit we can indeed shine for the Lord.
  - What was good to Spirit of God was also good to the Church. What impact? – Acts 15:28 –
  - Good not to increase burden on those turning to the Lord, whom the Lord chose.
  - Acts 15:24 (to regain a settled soul in the Gospel of God)

**Eph 5:11**

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

- **Acts 5:3-4, 9 –**
  - **Impact in growth of lies in heart of Ananias and Sapphira**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:16-17 –**
  - To help the congregation to make a distinction that such behavior is not shining for the Lord
  - For the true believers in the Lord to affirm their stance

**Eph 5:12-13**

For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

- **Impact of the secret matter; Shame**
- **Greater impact; Greater exposure of the shame**
- **What is greater impact for exposure? What is purpose?**
  - From shame and darkness, to repent to seek pardon from the Lord (standard for fellowship in the Gospel of God – Lk 24:47, Acts 8:22-23)
  - Those of the light to know/discern not to follow those practicing what is not of the light to prevent loss of their own salvation, and not be persuaded to follow bad examples
  - Those in the light to further far the Lord lest they become complacent in their walk according to the Lord (Acts 5:11, Acts 8:17-23)
  - For all to know the biblical truth from the perspective of God, so that all renew and preserve their heart in the light and true fellowship with God and His faithful apostles

**Eph 5:14**

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

- Those who sleep and are dead in their darkness are to be awakened, yet they must be willing.

- Attentive to what “God says” or speaks should bring our attention to Him to salvage the goodness from the error or curse of bad decision.
- **Awake to God’s message:**
  - Abraham (Gen 17:1-3)
    - 13 years of silence, and Abraham awoke to God’s word, falling on his face before Almighty God
  - Joshua (Joshua 5:13-14)
    - Self-realisation and reverence to lead God’s army...The LORD Himself. As with Abraham, Joshua fell on his face.
  - Ehud (Judges 3:20)
    - The message from the LORD should cause us to rise up from our relaxed mindset.
- Just like the alarm to allow Zion to be alert to prepare themselves for the day of the LORD, we should allow the words of the LORD and words from the LORD to be our alarm to wake us out of our slumber.

**Eph 5:15-6:9**

**Believer’s call to live by the Spirit (be filled by the Spirit)**

- This section concerns how in our life that we truly can understand what the will of God, how we manage that time available to us, and identify with fellow believers in Christ to we fear the Lord

**Eph 5:15-17**

**Pursue God’s will and wisdom**

- This section concerns how in our life that we truly can understand what the will of God and how we manage that time available to us.

**Eph 5:15**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

- To be a wise person
- “see then...”
  - To be careful in what to do to live a skilful life according to God, so not emulate the lifestyle of Gentiles, who do not know God:
    - Having understood the walk that pollutes or dilutes the love of God that is not in accordance to God (Eph 4:17-19)
    - Having understood of a loving walk that does not manifest a walk to truly love God (by way of deceit Eph 5:3-7)
    - Having understood the walk that is according to God (Eph 1:18-19, Eph 4:23-24)
    - Having understood not to grieve the Holy Spirit by giving disappointment to God, and associated like behaviour (Eph 4:30)
    - Having understanding fellowship in the light of God’s word is according to God while fellowship in darkness will bring shame to the Lord and His Church, yet expose true identity of the person in the light of God and His saints.

**Eph 5:16**

redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

- “...days are evil”

- Just like in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah...days being evil because of daily consistent standard of evil not change towards the better way of life acceptable to God.
- Taking care with time, to meditate upon the words of God.
- Fools will despise wise words of God and yet continue identifying with evil. Fools will despise the wise words of the faithful workers of God (apostles, elders, deacons) which indirectly is to ignore the word of God.
- **How to manage our lives during “days of evil?”**
  - Knowing that the LORD helped make us alive so that we do not live and follow the course of the prince and power of the air (Eph 2:1-3).
  - Live according to God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph 4:24)
  - Do not grieve the Holy Spirit yet be filled with the Spirit (Eph 4:30, Eph 5:18)
  - Consistent to discern to stand against the wiles/schemes of the devil (Eph 6:11)

**Evil does continue to take up much time day after day:**

- Anti-social behavior and knife crime
- The hearts of society strengthened in Western Festivals yearly in their seasons (obvious, less popular, newly invented)
- Drug taking and addition
- Abuse of the internet
- Gaming,...etc

**LESSON:**

**How can we redeem time in the midst of evil days?**

Our willingness to walk according to God will also involve needing to **understand the will of God** in order to help us to live a skillful life so that we can master to overcome evil with good and to flee from entering onto temptations that Gentiles and those in the world promote for us to become influenced

When we redeem time to understand the will of God:

- We become wise according to God
- God helps us to firm up principles and sound teachings according to God
- Pursue life of meaning and purpose
- Increase our time to discover fruitful life according to God
- Fruitful outcomes allow us to devote to God even more

**Eph 5:17**

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Eph 1:9 –

Mystery and pleasure of God has been revealed according to His will (a grace and favour from God)

Eph 5:17 –

- “...See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise”
- A willingness to “care” for a good desire

Eph 6:6-7 –

- not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,
- with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

- The wish for eyeservice - **service that is performed only to make an impression in the owner's presence, eye-service** –
- Aim to receive recognition from man, so there is not consideration for God, but self.
- Heart for God can cause God to see, know, and allow God to confirm His decision to be firm with you by His choice.

**How can we become wise to understand what is the will of the Lord?**

- To allow ourselves to live a sober life, depending and learning from the Holy Spirit

**Eph 5:18-21**

**Sustain fullness of the Holy Spirit: Cultivation through Worship and humility**

- This section concerns how in our life that we truly can understand what the will of God as we walk on earth according to God for ourselves and when with fellow believers as we fear the Lord

**Eph 5:18**

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

- Drunk: reckless, and lacks concern for the consequences.
  - Gen 9:20-21 – Noah's dignity, Ham's judgement
  - Ps 69:12 – Drunkards disrespect David
- To understand what is the will of the Lord, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- **LESSON:**
- When filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth – wisdom, joy, to live for the Lord with meaning and purpose.
  - Jn 16:13 – (individual)
    - "...but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will tell you things to come"
    - Holy Spirit will guide wise direction (Eph 1:17)
  - Acts 15:25 & 28 – (as a Church)
    - .... being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
    - Discern direction/behavior (Acts 5:1-10, Eph 5:9, Acts 16:6-10)
    - Discern; Acceptance, what is forbidden
    - Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

**Eph 5:19**

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

- Praising the Lord from within own heart and yet together
- The Lord Jesus Christ is praiseworthy when we love His cause and reasons

**Eph 5:20**

giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- **Thankful heart individually and yet together**
- We need to identify things of Christ that we can be thankful for:
  - In our life as Christian
  - What Christ has done for His Church
  - The things Christ continues to do for you and His Church

**Eph 5:21**

submitting to one another in the fear of God.

- ...in the fear of God – Reverence – respectful
- Enlightened to accept this best way because of God’s decision/plan – Love what God has granted.
- Joseph (Gen 42:18, 45:7-8, 50:17-19) –
  - Joseph involved God in many situations
- Gen 50:17-19 –
  - ..... "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?
  - Siblings of Joseph seek pardon and reconciliation. Joseph submits to God, serve his siblings remaining mindful of God's perspective.
- **Church environment**
- Acts 2:42-43 –
  - **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
    - Allow for doctrines to reign.
    - Determine not to depart, allow to remain ongoing lifestyle.
  - **43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.
    - Love God’s word through respect
    - God-centered, with godly jealousy
    - Church-centered on God
  - **44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,
    - **Abide in same unity, direction, respect to appreciate what God adds to union.**

**LESSON:**

When we identify what the Lord Jesus Christ adds to our life of faith and that of True Jesus Church, we should all the more offer up thanksgivings to God.

**Eph 5:22-6:9**

**Conduct relationships to God’s authority**

This section looks into:

- Marriage, Christ and the Church
- The Church is the bride of Christ, one of the main themes in the book of Ephesians.
- Order in marriage; Union of one man and one wife, Church to Christ
- Love, commitment and respect from the union of marriage
- The role/duties of the family unit; children and parents
- The orderly working relationships between bondservants (employees) and masters (employees)

**Eph 5:22-23**

**UNION OF SUBMISSION TO GOD**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

- Union of Holy Matrimony while living on this earth
- Wife to their own husband, - love, commit through respect union
- Wife to submit to the husband as her head, who both submit to the Lord Jesus Christ as their Head.
  - To treat the opposite sex with all purity (1<sup>st</sup> Tim 5:2)



- **Morality - the quality of moral purity, *purity***
  - Guardian of parents
  - Guardian of God.
- **Our heart is tossed between two values:**
  - Brothers - Eyesight
  - Sisters – Emotion
  - The moral standard of friends v moral standards of God
- Judges 13:8-9 –
  - Manoah and wife permit the LORD to lead their marriage.
- Mt 1:19-25 –
  - Joseph and Mary learned to submit to arrangement of God in their marriage.

### Eph 5:24

Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pet 3:5-6 –
  - **5** ....., **in former times**, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.
  - **6** as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.
  - Submission and obedience to their own head
  - Gen 12:5 – Abraham took Sarah, yet Sarah willing to follow him in submission
  - Gen 12:12-13 – Sarah submitted to the plans of Abraham, to help strengthen Abraham's decision.
  - Gen 6:20, Gen 7 – 9  
Wife of Noah; Approve and obey him.
    - No objection to Noah to build ark according to God
    - No objection to Noah preaching to the people of the world (2<sup>nd</sup> Pet 2:5)
    - No signs to reject entry into ark

### Eph 5:25-26

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

- **Gen 21:10-13** –
  - Abraham learned to appreciate reasoning because of the LORD, ...and obeyed
  - Abraham grew stronger to understand eyesight of God – plans of reassurance.
  - Loving words of affection v loving words of reasoning  
When we identify marriage in relation to Jesus Christ through His Church, what can we identify?

The following are possible answers:

- To love what Jesus Christ has brought together; Brothers and Sisters in Christ (so no need to marry outside TJC who have different identity, rather within His Church).

- What Christ has given to you and future spouse of TJC is something you and future spouse of TJC can share; Same one faith, same love and commitment to God and His Church, remaining set apart by God, remaining cleansed by God.
  - When you and future spouse give attention to Christ, both can discover God adding and build both up in marriage in the LORD.
  - Both can share to gain more from marriage in the Lord, greater blessings.
  - Both you and future spouse can gain from Christ and yet give love to Christ, and serve the Church.
- The...."washing of water by the word" cleanses us for our heart to remain clean by the word of God to help cleanse our conscience

**Eph 5:27**

that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- Here we can see the love of Jesus Christ and the work of the Spirit to establish a spiritual body owned by Him
  - Spot/wrinkle/blemish – Fault to beautiful appearance causes ruin (2<sup>nd</sup> Pet 2:13)
  - Should be holy – Beauty and pure appearance God approved & prepared
- **Acts 20:28 –**
  - ..... the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood
  - Elders to give their attention for the Church He gave birth to which has been the means to help the elect to receive spiritual life
  - To guide the newborn sheep, and sheep to walk according to God.
  - **How to manifest this care and devotion to the Church of God?**
  - The work of God to purchase His people through His own blood does not change. So, declaring the Biblical truth cannot/should not change

**Eph 5:28-29**

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

For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

- Love – commitment – devotion –
- Nourish? - Bring to maturity
- Cherish? – Bring comfort
- **How can we nourish and cherish the other half/spouse?**
- Take every opportunity of time to build/maintain nourishing and cherishing:
- Speech & Communication that is fragrant, not bitter (Eph 4:31)

- Gen 24:67 – Isaac became firm to love and to learn to love Rebekah through taking her in the union of marriage before God.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Pet 3:7 Empathy towards the weaknesses (1<sup>st</sup> Pet 3:7). Care and concern over neglect and ignorance. Impact of neglect to care is unanswered prayers to God
- Relate to what God Himself appreciates (Mal 2:14-15)
- Gen 2:23 - Adam to Eve “This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh”
- Prov 31:26-28 – Helpful wisdom, lawful kindness, efforts to help manage the operations of the house, praise through acknowledging her good deeds (Prov 31:26-28)
- **How does the Lord Jesus Christ nourish and cherish the Church, His body?**
  - Based on what He grants (Ps 46:1, 4-5)
  - God determines the daily supply of fulfilment (Mt 20:2)
  - Ensure what God has granted remains helpful than abused (Rev 6:6)

### Eph 5:30

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

- **How are we members of His body, flesh and bones?**
  - Jesus Christ has changed our identity to Him and to be in Him (Eph 2:19) –
    - Eph 2:19 - Not to forget fellow citizen
    - Eph 4:24 – from rebirth, born anew and created according to righteousness and holiness.
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 5:7-8 - Union to Jesus Christ, especially during the sacraments

### Eph 5:31

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

- The origin how marriage works.
  - Principle of marriage, whereby two become one flesh (Gen 2:24)
  - Family of both sets of parents should know this teaching quite well.
- **Why man is to leave parents to be joined to wife?**
  - Necessary for independence of husband and wife.
  - Husband to take up the role as head of the family. Any issues need to be discussed with the wife.
- The couple should respect their parents but the parents should not influence the decision of the son/daughter and in-law.
- Pre-marital counselling for couples-to-be and to parents. Grandparents provide some experience to their grandchildren, though the parents should really take up the responsibility.
- For the family of the Minister, everybody looks at their family.

### Eph 5:32-33

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

#### LESSON:

- **Summary statement of marriage in the Lord**
- **Marriage in the Lord; The husband to his own wife; Love, commitment, devotion**

- **Marriage to Christ as the Head:**
  - **Pre-marriage counselling through preaching the Gospel of Salvation**
  - **Immediate post-marriage to the Head:**
    - **Maintain the early years through Manna Class**
    - Manifest the principles; cherish the doctrine of the faithful and true apostles/preachers, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayers, sharing and reverence (Acts 2:42-44)
    - Willingness strengthens maturity in the longer term. Unwillingness or neglecting the build-up invites weakening the foundation and growth of good from God. – outcome is to wither.
  - **Maintaining marriage to Christ as the Head: Attending Worship, services, and convocations and seminar helps a mature marriage to the Head.**
    - To serve the body of Christ
    - Receive spiritual food (word of God)
    - Sense of belonging to TJC true devotion to the Head.

## Chapter 6

### Relationship between Father and Son

- The role/duties of the family unit; children and parents
- The orderly working relationships between bondservants (employees) and masters (employees)

Eph 6:1-4

Duties/Expectations of Children and parents

- Orderly arrangement according to God
- Behaviors and application.

**Eph 6:1-3**

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

"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

- To teach the children to honour their parents.
- The Ministers wife is very helpful to raising up the child when the minister is away. The focus for Children in family unit, and expectation from godly offspring:

- obedience and respect to their parents.
- Obedience and respect to God based on commandments

#### **What is reason and purpose?**

- Live long on the earth – Principle to learn to "do right in the Lord"
- Parents guide you in the Lord to live skilful life in midst of evil days to pursue what is acceptable to God (Eph 5:10, 15-16)
- Children in adolescence and into independence can reflect on past experiences that:
  - Parents faced overcome, and invested time for good discernment and application before them and God
  - You as the child faced, overcome with parents wise guidance, and invested time for good discernment and application before them and God
  - Growing up not to despise them to help prepare you for a better future by investing time.

- Younger generation have higher level of education than their parents, YET some children look down on their parents.
  - Solomon, and Bathsheba came, Solomon asked men to give her a seat.
  - Absalom did not know about the teaching and his outcome was very bad.

**LESSON:**

- Continue to remain part of family altar in the Lord as appropriate
- Reflect on learning from parents, accompany them to care for prayers, care for the matters of the Church, and wellbeing of others (Acts 21:5)
- Willingness to nurture our future, trained to keep what is right in the Lord (Prov 22:6)

**Eph 6:4**

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

**LESSON:**

- Teach a child in the way they should walk. The Father holds responsibility as family head to teach their child.
- Father not push away responsibility. Mother is there to help. Once the mother helps, that father should be grateful to the mother for her help (Prov 31:26-28).
- The responsibility lies with the father. It is not easy to be the head of the household.
- If we:
  - show favouritism between children, the children will not be pleased – Isaac & Rebekah towards Jacob and Esau
- **If fathers are angry, they provoke children to wrath:**
  - children lose motivation
  - children lose courage.
    - They should be brought up in the ways of the LORD.
    - Manoah and wife did all they could to fulfil preparations God had for Samson to be the godly offspring He intended...until Samson fulfilled his own desires (Judges 14:3-4)
    - Eli did not discipline his children according to the expectations of God (1<sup>st</sup> Sam 2:28-30, 1<sup>st</sup> Sam **3:13**).
    - Samuel was brought up to honour the presence of God.

**Eph 6:5-9**

Relationship between slaves and masters.

- The orderly working relationships between bondservants (employees) and masters (employees)
- Slaves to live a loyal life in obedience to their masters.

**Eph 6:5**

Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

- Serving your Line Manager/Boss/Employer according to Christ
- Mindset of obedience; Reverence in sincerity of heart
  - **Fulfil our duty and task – How?**
- "...as to Christ?"
- Jesus managed to devote Himself in what is right in the eyes of God (1<sup>st</sup> Pet 2:23)

- Jesus managed to learn obedience through the sufferings He experienced in many prayers to Father of Heaven (Heb 5:7-8)
  - Sometimes
    - Joy to serve – to persevere as you serve
    - Hard-pressed with time, yet to do what is honorable. **How to manifest reverence to our employer, that would manifest reverence to Christ?**
    - With correct application God will not forget, rather remember and honor (Jn 12:26) –
      - Follow with sincerity
      - Follow with heart of pure motives
      - Faithful in what is rewarding according to God to discover the true reward (material and spiritual blessing)

**Eph 6:6-8**

not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

- Purpose to do the will of God
- Reason in goodwill as to the Lord
- Receive the share of goodness from employer, YET Receive the share of goodness from Jesus Christ...because you have entered in His joy (Mt 25:23)
  - Joy of your lord is for Him to see you obey Him
  - Joy shared and that you do not lose out but gain the reward of shared joy
  - When we don't enter into the joy of the Lord, according to Him – disappointment & shame (Mt 25:25-27)
  - Statement "When the boss is away, the children are at play"
    - When the boss is disappointed, we have less excuses and reasons.
    - Obedience is better than sacrifice (1<sup>st</sup> Sam 15:22).

Relationship between slaves and masters.

- The orderly working relationships between bondservants (employees) and masters (employees)
- Slaves to live a loyal life in obedience to their masters.

**Eph 6:9**

And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

LESSON:

- The LORD watches over the master and their slaves, and for masters not to threaten slaves. Slaves should behave as if they are serving the LORD.
- When we serve in the society is the relationship between ourselves and God. If a chairperson in society, we should treat those under us with love.

**Chapter Six**  
**Eph 6:10-20**

**Believer's call to spiritual warfare**

Spiritual Warfare to put on the armour of Christ

This sections looks into:

- The responsibility to stand in the Lord, and reasons why to stand in the Lord.
- How to take up the whole armour of God.
- To always remain watchful and alert through prayers
- The ministerial duties of Tychicus and how he will help the brethren of Ephesus

**Eph 6:10**

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

- We are to discover the strength and mighty power of the Lord.
- Only when we are in the Lord, can we truly discover His might and power
- Testimony: The woman who lost her sight and regained. Husband read the Scriptures to her, and she prayed daily until she discovered sight. Doctors believed this was impossible due to damaged retina.

**Eph 6:11**

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

- Purpose to become and remain preserved in the strength of the Lord and Almighty power.
- ...the wiles of the devil – Schemes – craftiness – tactics
- Eph 4:14 –
  - Doctrine that is crafty and deceitful.
  - Prince and power of the air is the major cause of deceit (Eph 2:1-3)
  - The devil possess devices that cause ignorance that testify against what s good (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 2:11)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Pet 5:8 – The devil is clear-minded to deceive and is alert to unsettle.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 2:11
  - The wiles of the devil will seek to exploit the weaknesses of the elect, the scheme to corrupt the simple mind (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 11:3).

**Eph 6:12**

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Reason to wrestle against the wiles of the devil: Wrestling against principalities, powers and hosts of wickedness.
- Be clear whom our enemy is: Satan is our enemy who has many schemes, bringing much tribulations to man (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 2:11).
- With our flesh, we cannot overcome spiritual beings unless we rely on the Lord.
- Col 1:16-17 –
  - **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
  - **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
    - Jesus Christ is the firstborn over all creation, not the created but the Creator and reigning power.
    - Some try to explain that the devil was created for the purpose of God. Some say the devil exist because of God

- However the power of God would manifest His power over the schemes of the evil one.

**Eph 6:13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- Proper equipment of armour and weapons.

**Eph 6:14** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

**Gird our waist with belt of truth?**

- Truth is our strength
- Waist must have a lot of power to do the work and to fight because truth (Is 11:5).
- Honourable and precious
- Truth is secure whereas lies and deceit will expose falsehood.
- Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist (Is 11:5)
  - From the belt of the Lord, His loins possess righteousness and faithfulness. Why is there the need to gird our waist, just as the LORD did?

The time Jesus appear in the presence of man He did not lack grace and truth (Jn 1:14), which is strength of God towards man. So, when man received both from Jesus Christ, this could strengthen their devotion to God in order to then walk in Christ.

**LESSON:**

- Any compromise in truth, there is not strength to continue. So, we should be filled with truth and to hold onto the truth.
- When Eve spoke to Satan:
  - she did not firmly hold onto the truth from God, nor the strength of His word which is light, and courage (1<sup>st</sup> Jn 1:5, Ps 27:14)
  - Eve was deceived, weakened She, so lost reward of truth of God for lies of Satan.
  - If we stand firm in truth, Satan would have no opportunity to attack us and bring us down to his lies/deceit. Allow darkness to reign over truth.
- **Breastplate of righteousness?** –
  - Protection of vital organs, such as heart and lungs.
  - If we abide in the teachings of the Lord, act justly, show no favouritism, then with a perfect character we shall not be attacked.

**Eph 6:15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Shoes prepared for the journey and pathway

Need to be clear purpose and meaning of pathway to fulfil purpose

We must wear good shoes for the gospel of peace.

Generally:

- Decision where you wish your feet is to walk to establish a good pathway:
- College, University, Career and direction



- Area – house/flat
- Marriage in the Lord – family – which school for child
- Seeking pathway to establish good result (Prov 4:26-27)
- Reason out instruction and charge from God (Gen 26:2-6)

Mk 4:13-15 –

- Jesus Christ chose disciples, yet why? – To be with Him (Mk 4:13-15). To share with Him something better (Jn 13:1, 8). Demas had change establish different direction: Pathway to love God to love this present world (Phile v24, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 4:10)

Preparation of our feet...,gospel of peace

- Clear aim and purpose centred on the Gospel
- **What is it that can be established from the perspective on God in our lives when we pursue preparing to walk in this gospel of peace according to God?:**
- To become established in that good way of God through His gospel:

**Rom 10:15:-**

**14** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

**15** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

- Receive the beauty of good news according to God (Mk 5:27, 34).
- To take root to reason out good things from God (Jn 7:45-46)
- The gospel requires preachers (10:14-15)
- A preacher is required to be sent so that people will hear the message of salvation, thus enabling them to call upon the Lord, preaching the gospel of peace (10:14-15)
  - **Today, are we ever-ready to see this pathway established under the care and abidance of God?**
  - Today, we have to preach the Gospel of peace. It also means that we have to be ever-ready to explain the Gospel of salvation to others so that they can listen to prompt them to pursue the steps to salvation.

**Eph 6:16**

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

“...Shield of faith”

- To give every focus, totality and become complete to attain and retain the shield of faith. – **Why?**
- .....all the fiery darts of the wicked one. **Why does the wicked one attack?**
  - A spirit to work on the disobedient (Eph 2:3-4)
  - Because we root self to commandment of God and testimony of Lord Jesus Christ (Rev 12:17)
  - Wicked one desires darkness to reign over and wound children of God who transferred into His light (Eph 6:12, Col 1:13)

Is 11:5 – Faithfulness

**5** Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist

- ...devices of Satan encourage provocation (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 2:11, Lk 22:31, Rev 20:1-3 & Rev 20:7-10)
- ...to cause fear through opposing what is in his path (Zech 3:1)
  - ....to promote fear as a roaring lion – to howl in your presence (1<sup>st</sup> Pet 5:8)

**Eph 6:17**

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

Helmet of salvation

- To protect our head, protecting our thoughts for truth (Ps 43:3)
- If cheated, then enter into darkness of world instead of Lord Jesus Christ (Col 2:8)
- To fill our head with the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 13:47)

The sword of the Spirit

- The word of God is a double-edged sword, piercing into the bones or marrows (Heb 4:12)
- Holy Spirit is true and one and the same with the word of God.

The helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit is the word of God  
Both are one and the same.

**Testimony**

- During prayer a brother was troubled in the vision;
- He saw the devil, having a machetti in his hand, near a bucket that contained blood. He asked the brother whether the brother wants to take the machetti from the devil. Brother thought about it and said no.
- Later during the same prayer, he was a sword going down towards him.
- No one invited the brother to take the sword, yet he took it and used it to fight against the devil.
- The brother not only overcome the devil, but by swiping the sword left to right the environment changed for the better. The sword was in his hand and yet the brother examined the sword more closely, saw the words on the sword:
- “Hallelujah!”
- Lessons to know:
  - Many brethren have been unfaithful to the Lord by committing adultery; extra relationship outside marriage, yet also idolatry by worshipping idols, hence lost their spiritual life in the Church.
  - The sword of the Spirit, the word of God defeated the devil
  - We can only be victorious when we rely on the word of God, and abide in His word to defeat the evil one to gain a victorious life, and yet preserve our own spiritual life with God.

**Eph 6:18**

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Pray for the minister to deliver the true Gospel message.

- Though Paul is bound, he was still concerned for the preaching of the gospel (Phil 1:5-7)

- Paul was imprisoned, released and then preached the gospel for a further four years.
- Peter was captured again, and the Church prayed eagerly for him, the angel brought him out (Acts 12:5-8). Though he was sometimes captured, the word of God was not bounded (Acts 4:18-21):
  - With such heart and determination to live according to the word of God, there is life and testimony through the word.
  - God will not deny Himself in what has to be revealed for the people of the world to know Him (Acts 18:9-11)

**Eph 6:19-20**

and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**LESSON:**

- We should respect the spirit Paul had for wanting the gospel to be preached.
- **Why speak boldly? –**
- Paul is mindful of the mystery of the Gospel to be made known; Apostle (Eph 1:1), Prisoner (Eph 3:1, 4:1), Brother (Eph 6:10), Ambassador (Eph 6:20):
  - Helpful to those who mock the mystery of the Gospel...and yet discover the truth of the mystery by the power of God to save the former ignorant in heart (Rom 1:16, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 5:20)

**Eph 6:21**

But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

Tychicus – May have brought the letters of Philippians and Colossians.

**Eph 6:22**

whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.

**1. Beloved Brother who excludes lies from fellowship**

**a. Eph 6:21 –**

- i. Paul identified Tychicus as a beloved brother. Beloved? –
  1. ① to one who is in a very special relationship with another, only beloved
  2. ② to one who is dearly loved, dear, beloved, valued
- ii. The brotherhood is cherished.
- iii. Accurately make things known.
- iv. In the relationship between Cain and Abel – evil thoughts (1<sup>st</sup> Jn 3:12)
- v. Paul defended the capability of Tychicus being able to do this. This is not the first time to do so (Col 4:7)

**b. Sometimes**

- i. Looking out for the wellbeing of others and providing that assistance of encouragement:
  1. can prove accepting when people have things in common
  2. foundation of relationship brings about trust, is cherished when walking according to truth.

3. Effective when there is no malice and wickedness  
Fellowship with Christ is without malice and wickedness
- ii. Brotherhood and membership that brings us close to comfort one another. **When has such been demonstrated?** When existing and new converts kept the teachings of the apostles, and from this fellowship as members, continued in breaking of bread and prayers. True fellowship whereby they helped one another.
- iii. **How can we remain a beloved brother?** When we speak the truth in love that brings membership together (Eph 4:25)
- c. Beloved fellowship in truth maintains care and genuine concern when it is not destroyed by continued lies and deceit.

## 2. Faithful Minister In the Lord

### a. Eph 6:21 –

- i. Tychicus is to help the Ephesian brethren to know things as a minister in the Lord. From the ministry, Tychicus will be able to comfort others in an effective way. **When would it occur to effectively comfort others?**
  1. He would be able to continue to defend the truth and explain the truth as a faithful minister in the Lord (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:15, 1<sup>st</sup> Jn 1:5)

### b. Col 4:7 -

- i. Tychicus is identified as one who serves in the Lord.
- ii. Serving focus/purpose to help others, yet effectiveness from that serving is in Christ. What is so effective about serving faithfully in Christ.
- iii. Serving is a testimony to others of being in Christ. Tychicus can manifest the testimony of living in Christ and according to Him while we remain faithful to Him.

### c. Sometimes –

- i. Faithfulness to the ministry. The ministry of God is that of faithfulness, although motive of others is with selfish ambition.
- ii. The works we do to sustain our livelihood.
- iii. The only way to remain faithful is actually to prove we are worthy in faithfulness to the work.

#### **How can we remain a faithful minister in the Lord?**

- When you don't forget the depth of faithfulness of Christ as Apostle and High Priest (Heb 3:1-2)
- When you don't forget His calling, purpose and grace (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 1:8-9)
- **Those constrained by strong consideration to His faithfulness will not forget His ministry to retain His words from beginning to end.**

**Eph 6:23-24**

Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

- Those who love the Lord are to remain sincere to God individually and yet collectively (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:22, Heb 12:14)

**END**