

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 6:23-24

Lesson #69

Abiding Faith and Love

12/30/2018

Ephesians 6

“²³ **Peace** be to the brethren, and **love** with **faith**, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ **Grace** be with all those who **love** our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible.”

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Ephesians

Who we are in Christ
ch. 1-3

How we should walk
ch. 4-6

God's gift
“in Christ”



**Grace
Peace**

**Faith
Love**



**Our
response**

2

How are faith and love nurtured?



Ephesians

Identity

“sit”
(2:6)

In Action

“walk”
(4:1)

“stand”
(6:11)

Ch. 1-3

Ch. 4-6

3

How are faith and love nurtured?

Point #1 “Sit”

Remember who you are “in Christ”.

Ephesians 2

“⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions,

made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him** in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,”

Cultivate a Kingdom Perspective.

See your cup as half full rather than half empty. 4

How are faith and love nurtured?

Point #1 “Sit”

Remember who you are “in Christ”.

Ephesians 2:11-13

“remember that **formerly** you, the Gentiles in the flesh, . . . were at that time separated from Christ, excluded from the promises . . .

but **now** in Christ Jesus . . . you have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Remember

who you were without Christ and who you are
“in Christ”.

5

Help for keeping your "Seat"



1.

Worship
(the bread & cup)

1 Corinthians 11:25
"This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



2.

Prayer
(for insight)

Ephesians 1:18
"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"

6

Observe

Paul, while imprisoned for his faith, starts his letter giving attention to what we have "in Christ" and only at the end does he mention what he has lost "in this life."

This echoes the example of Jesus and challenges all his disciples -

- When their expectations are not met in this life.
- When other Christians have let them down.
- When they gather for public worship - especially at the Lord's supper.
- When they are tempted to find their hope in the blessings of this life.

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How are faith and love nurtured?

Point #2 "Walk"

Respond to the call to be children of light.

Ephesians

Who we are in Christ
ch. 1-3

How we should walk
ch. 4-6

Paul, while seated in heavenly places "in Christ", sees the Christian's position as a call to self-sacrificing service on earth."

8

Point #2 "Walk"

Respond to the call to be children of light.

Ephesians 5:7-8

"Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; **walk as children of light.**"

- Take your **baptism** seriously.

Romans 6:3

"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"

- Offer yourself as a **living sacrifice**.

Romans 12:1

"present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,"

9

Keys to "Walking in the light"



1.

Edifying the Church
(speaking truth in love)

Ephesians 4
"15 but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, . . ."



2.

Responding to suffering

"22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

10

"Sometimes I am two people. Johnny is the nice one. Cash causes all the trouble. **They fight and the one that I feed generally wins.**"

Johnny Cash



11

There are two
natures in every
person.



The one you feed is the one that grows.

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How are faith and love nurtured?

Point #3 “Stand”

Resist the temptations of this age.

Ephesians 6

“¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

- Realistic **expectations** are an important key to Peace.



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Point #3 “Stand”

Resist the temptations of this age.

Ephesians

Who we are in Christ
ch. 1-3

How we should walk
ch. 4-6

The Christian walk
is not a war against
other people

**but against
spiritual forces.**

“put off the
old self”
“put on the
new self”

ch. 4-5

“put on the
full armor
of God”

ch. 6

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Keys to “resisting the darkness”

Ephesians 6:11

“**Put on** the full armor of God,
that you may be able to **stand
firm** against the schemes of
the devil.”

vs. 18

“With all prayer and
petition pray at all times in
the Spirit, and with this in
view, be on the alert with all
perseverance and petition
for all the saints,”



1.

Preparation
(arm, stand firm,
and resist)



2.

**Perseverance
and petition**

15

Observe

Paul saw Christians as alien ambassadors
in a hostile spiritual environment where the root
issues were not political, economic, or social,
but spiritual.

**This echoes the example of Jesus
and challenges all his disciples.**

Jesus chose 12 disciples who came
from the 4 corners of Hebrew culture
(Zealots, a tax collector, fishermen, a
Pharisee) and united them as alien
ambassadors for the Kingdom.

16

“In the end, dear
friend, it is always
between us and God,
not between
us and
them.”

Mother Teresa



17

How are faith and love nurtured?

Ephesians

Identity

"sit"
(2:6)

Ch. 1-3

In Action

"walk"
(4:1)

"stand"
(6:11)

Ch. 4-6

- **Remember** - where you are seated
- **Respond** - to the light
- **Resist** - the darkness

18

Ephesians



The End

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