

SIT, WALK, STAND

Ephesians 1:3

Ephesians...

You will find the highest spiritual truths regarding living FROM CHRIST... and the Christian life that produces...

progressive steps in the life of a Christian...

2:6... sit His position... points to our wealth and calling

4:1... walk HIS LIFE... points to our walk and conduct

6:11... stand HIS WARFARE ... points to our warfare and conflict

Ephesians is the Mt. Everest of the New Testament...

We get saved...

We are zealous...

We are given practical ways to live out a Christian life..

Activity-laden...

Performance driven...

Our own sense of duty or interests...

Other people's expectations and lists...

WE THINK THE CHRISTIAN LIFE MEANS "ACTION"..... do, say, go, work, operate, function, perform...

DO ACTIVITIES DRIVE YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE OR DOES YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST DRIVE YOUR ACTIVITIES?...

No one tells us that it is about CHRIST...

What he is doing... saying... his work, his operation, his function, his thoughts... in real time... IN US...

WE WANT TO WALK WITH THE LORD... and that looks a certain way depending on where you go... they will inform you...

LET ME REMIND YOU... WE MUST BE IN CHRIST BEFORE WE CAN DO ANYTHING FOR HIM...

Christian life does not begin with WALKING, but with SITTING

SITTING IS THE FOUNDATION

IF WE DO NOT SIT IN HIM THEN WE SPEND OUR ENERGY TRYING TO DO WHAT HE HAS ALREADY DONE...

ALL GROWTH AND SERVICE MUST FLOW FROM OUR SITTING IN CHRIST...

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE DOES NOT BEGIN WITH A BIG DO BUT A BIG DONE!

If we start “doing” to earn what he has done there is no rest...

WE ARE NOT TOLD TO SIT DOWN... WE ARE TOLD THAT “WE ARE SEATED”... that is a reality, not something you need to do...

THIS CHANGES HOW YOU FEEL AND ACT IN YOUR DAILY LIFE...

Reversing the divine order always results in disaster.

We must see his FULL, COMPLETED, AND FINISHED WORK on Calvary – NOT JUST HIS REDEMPTIVE WORK... and learn to REST IN HIM...

HE IS SEATED ON THE THRONE... and we are CONFIDENT in HIM...

He is seated...

We are seated with Him...

... Ephesians shows us how awesome the church is in God’s eyes...

Eph 1:22-23 NASB

And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

The church is the fullness of Christ...

We are the enlargement of Christ...

We are the completion of Christ...

WE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM AND HE IS COMPLETE IN US...

Just like your physical body fills out your head... so the body of Christ fills out his head... THE CHURCH IS THE REST OF CHRIST!

6 Days of Creation

Man on the sixth day...

His first full day was THE DAY OF REST...

ALL TRUE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE BEGINS WITH REST... BUT IT DOES NOT END THERE...

Ephesians 1 – 3 is focused on SITTING...

Sitting is always followed by WALKING...

SITTING IS OUR POSITION WITH CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLIES

WALKING IS THE PRACTICAL OUTWORKING OF THAT POSITION HERE ON EARTH

Ephesians 4:1-2

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, ² with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love

Ephesians 4:17,23

¹⁷ This I say.... that ye no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk, in the vanity of their mind....But... that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Ephesians 5:2

² and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for ^[a]us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for an odor of a sweet smell.

Ephesians 5:8-10

⁸ for ye were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord: walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰ proving what is well-pleasing unto the Lord;

EIGHT TIMES IN EPHESIANS THE WORD “WALK” IS USED...

Walk – “to walk around” – “to comport oneself; to order ones behavior”
IT BRINGS US TO CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

HOW WE BEHAVE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT WE BEHAVE...

The theme which this conduct is inserted is “the body of Christ” or the
“fellowship of Christian believers”... **DOMESTIC AND PUBLIC...**

He goes on to address

- Neighbors
- Husbands and wives
- Parents and children
- Employers and employed

10 examples of walking out YOUR IDENTITY in relationships... (your vertical position on a horizontal plane)...

“Walk... with longsuffering, forbearing one another”

“Putting away falsehood, speak ye truth each one with his neighbor”

“Be ye angry, and sin not”

“Steal no more”

“Let all bitterness...be put away from you”

“Be ye kind...forgiving one another.”

“Subjecting yourselves to one another”

“Provoke not”

“Be obedient”

“Forebear threatening” (Is this a challenge?..... go back to sitting)...

THIS IS REALISTIC STUFF, NOT THEOLOGY AND FUN.

THE BODY NEEDS THE HEAD TO GIVE IT LIFE, NOURISHMENT, AND DIRECTION... THE HEAD NEEDS THE BODY TO GIVE IT EXPRESSION...

Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸ Ye have heard that it was said, An ^[a]eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: ³⁹ but I say unto you, Resist not ^[b]him that is evil: but whosoever

smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if any man would go to law with thee, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. ⁴¹ And whosoever shall [c]ompel thee to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

⁴³ Ye have heard that it was said, [d] Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: ⁴⁴ but I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; ⁴⁵ that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? do not even the [e] publicans the same? ⁴⁷ And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the Gentiles the same? ⁴⁸ **Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

THESE ARE IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS!

Remember... we don't eat from the knowledge of good and evil... There is no power in knowing a thing.

FOR US, JESUS CHRIST IS THE TREE OF LIFE... and GOOD IS A LIFE-FORM... and when we eat from the Tree of Life, we have the power to walk out CHRIST...

We do not start from the ethical right and wrong
We do not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil
We start from HIM...

NOTHING DAMAGES THE BODY OF CHRIST MORE THAN US TRYING TO BE RIGHT AND DEMANDING RIGHT OF OTHERS...

- We think, have we been justly or unjustly treated?
- We must vindicate our actions
- **BUT THIS IS NOT OUR STANDARD... OUR STANDARD IS ONE OF CROSS-BEARING**

You ask me... “Is it right for someone to strike my cheek?” No! of course not...

- As CHRISTians, our standard is never one of right or wrong... but our standard is THE CROSS

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE CROSS IS OUR PRINCIPLE OF CONDUCT

With Him it is not a standard of right or wrong; but a standard of GRACE.
“FORGIVING EACH OTHER, EVEN AS GOD ALSO IN CHRIST FORGAVE YOU”...
(Ephesians 4:32)

Gentiles think in terms of “right or wrong”
Tax collectors think in terms of “right or wrong”
Our standard of perfection is GRACE, MERCY, KINDNESS, FORGIVENESS...

THAT IS THE PRINCIPLE OF THE CROSS...

“Ye therefore shall be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect” –
Matthew 5:48

Ephesians 1:5... tells us he has foreordained us unto adoption as sons
through Jesus Christ....

...That does not mean we have “come of age”...

...maturity does not accompany position...

WE MUST MATURE...

CHILDREN ATTAIN TO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SONS IN THE MEASURE IN WHICH THEY MANFIEST KINSHIP OF SPIRIT AND OF ATTITUDE WITH THEIR FATHER...

We are called to be “perfect in love”...
...showing forth HIS GRACE

Ephesians 5:1-2

Be ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us.

Matthew 5 sets a high standard
Paul endorses it in Ephesians

WE DO NOT FIND IN OURSELVES THE NATURE TO ATTAIN THAT STANDARD –
TO WALK “as becometh saints” (Ephesians 5:3)

WHAT IS THE SECRET... it’s in the words of Paul...
(3:20)... “The Power that worketh in us”

Colossians 2:10

We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them.

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”

“for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure”.

GOD IS WORKING IT IN YOU.... WORK IT OUT OF YOU!

UNTIL WE ARE ALLOWING GOD TO WORK IT IN, IT IS USELESS FOR US TO TRY TO WORK IT OUT...

I need to be meek and gentle... so I try... that is self-righteousness...
Why don’t I allow God to work in me the gentleness and meekness of Christ...

I need to be loving... so I try... that is self-righteousness
Why don’t I allow God to show me the love of Christ and then I can manifest the love of Christ to others...

GOD HAS GIVEN US CHRIST... There is nothing to receive outside of HIM...
...IT IS THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST THAT IS IN US... when He speaks and reigns it will be his voice, his actions, sounding clear...

WE PRODUCE WHAT IS OF CHRIST IN US...

WE ARE NOT CALLED TO PRODUCE ANYTHING THAT IS APART FROM OR OUTSIDE OF HIM...

Ephesians 3:16, 19

“strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inward man;....to know the love of Christ.”

WE CAN ONLY SHOW FORTH OUTWARDLY WHAT CHRIST HAS PUT WITHIN...

1 Corinthians 1:30... NOT ONLY DID GOD SET US “IN CHRIST”... but watch...
By Him also... “Christ Jesus...was made unto us wisdom from God, and righteousness, sanctification, and redemption”...

JESUS CHRIST IS MADE UNTO US WHATEVER WE LACK!

Here is how we are trained...

Holiness is a virtue... to be sought from God.

Love is a gift ... to be sought from God.

Humility is a grace ... to be sought from God.

CHRIST IS EVERYTHING THAT WE SHOULD EVER NEED... seek CHRIST ... and He will have all of these... and they will flow from HIM...

Jesus is the fullness of all of these virtues, gifts, and grace...

HE HIMSELF IS REVEALED AS THE ANSWER TO ALL THINGS... capitalize them once they come from through Him!!!

THERE IS A LIFE IN ME

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

THE LAW OF THAT LIFE IS TO LOVE... TO BE PATIENT... TO FORBEAR... TO GIVE MERCY...

THE LIFE IN ME CANNOT DO ANYTHING ELSE BUT TO LOVE... TO BE PATIENT... TO FORBEAR... TO GIVE MERCY...

I make no effort...

I simply allow him to do it through me...

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE IS IN ME... IT JUST FLOWS...

I have nothing of my own...

I am simply a vessel...

THE LIFE OF CHRIST... ALL HE IS MOVES THROUGH ME... THAT IS IT...

I SERVE HIM...

THIS IS ABOUT HIS LIFE, NOT MY OWN...

IS JESUS IN ME RIGHT A REALITY?...

IS HE IN YOUR RIGHT NOW?

Really?... the Mighty God...came as a man... victorious, powerful, strong, meek, loving, kind, generous, holy, pure... IS HE IN YOU RIGHT NOW?

SO... DO WE ACT LIKE CHRIST...

Or do we actually LIVE FROM HIM IN US... ?

We act... largely a pretense...

- We live a “spiritual” life... a “spiritual” language... a “spiritual” vocabulary... a “spiritual” attitude... WE HAVE TO PUT IN THE EFFORT... WE HAVE TO...
- FORCE OURSELVES TO DO THIS
- FORCE OURSELVES TO REFRAIN FROM THAT
- FORCE OURSELVES FROM SAYING THIS OR THAT
- FORCE OURSELVES TO REFRAIN FROM ACTING THIS WAY OR THAT WAY...

.....my question... IT DOES NOT COME SPONTANEOUSLY...

When I speak Spanish... I still have to try...

When I speak English... I don't have to put forth any effort..... it reveals who I am...

THE LIFE IN YOU BECOMES A FLOW OUT OF YOU...

IT'S SPONTANEOUS... the struggle happens when you interrupt it with your flesh...

Our outward efforts cease and our attitudes become natural...

OUR WORDS, PRAYERS, AND VERY LIFE BECOME AN UNFORCED EXPRESSION OF THE LIFE WITHIN....

Jesus said...

Matthew 5:20

Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees ye shall no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The Law of Moses versus what he is saying...

You have heard it said... but I say unto you... (Matthew 5)...

WE MUST THROW OURSELVES BACK ON HIM FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE HIS DEMANDS...

A Situation arises... do we need wisdom... WE DO NOT HAVE TO GO TO THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL... CHRIST HAS BEEN MADE UNTO US WISDOM FROM GOD...

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS.... That is what Paul called it... CONTINUALLY COMMUNICATES HIS STANDARD OF RIGHT AND WRONG AND WITH THEM THE ATTITUDE OF SPIRIT WITH WHICH THE DIFFICULT SITUATION SHOULD BE MET...

Our standard is not the old man... the letter of the law, right and wrong... But our standard is the new man... the law of the Spirit and life in Christ

The new man, “that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth” (ephesians 4:24)

HAS GOD COMMANDED SOMETHING...? Then throw yourself back on God for the means to do what he has commanded...

WALK suggests conduct an behavior... but it also suggests progress...

“to proceed”...

“to follow on”...

Ephesians 5:15-17

¹⁵ Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; ¹⁶ [a]redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

There is an association between TIME and the difference between wisdom and foolishness.

FIRST FRUITS VS. HARVEST

Wise redeem the time... they don't wait until they need more oil... they keep it fresh...