

] With Lowliness and Meekness [

Ephesians 4:1 – 6

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~ Our Spiritual Safari leaves the *doctrinal* section of the epistle to the Ephesians behind, and enters the *practical* section of Paul's church letter in this report. In the doctrinal section of chapters one through three, we have closely examined the calling, the vocation, and the vocalization of the church body of Christ; and that's our present position in Christ. Now, in chapters four through six, we will consider the correct *conduct* of the church, as observed through the lens of an individual believers life; that is, the personal vocation, the Heavenly calling and, most importantly, the earthly walk – *NOT* the worldly walk – but the *EARTHLY* walk of the individual Christian. We are to be in the Spirit of God. You will recall we took our first few baby steps in the Spirit in the epistle to the Galatians; so, we can call this an advanced walking course – and we're going to learn to run later. Now, we need to fully understand that Christ is the head of the body, and He is seated at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven – but the church body is to walk down here on earth. We are His witnesses in the world; and we are to be grounded in love for the brethren.

In our last report, Paul the apostle labeled the church a "*new man*." That brings us into practice – or *practicality*. The conduct, confession, character, and conflict of the church are set before us now. We'll see how a believer is a soldier in Christ – but not a fighter. In the future, the church will become the bride of Christ – and we'll see that, too. In the first three chapters of Ephesians, we have literally been on the Mount of Transfiguration – at the highest possible spiritual summit of existential being in the entire New Testament. We spent a lot of time up there on that mountaintop on safari; but now, we must descend to the plain of *living* — where the sole of our shoes meet the streets of life and, trust me, my friends, we're going to get to the absolute nitty-gritty in this, and the next twelve, safari reports. The present world a Christian confronts daily is evil, demon-possessed, and consists of a highly skeptical mob. Those truths we have learned on the mountaintop are going to have to be translated into practicality in our life,

or they are utterly devoid of meaning. Jesus said, *“be ye in the world, but not of the world.”*

The epistle to the Ephesians is the New Testament theological equivalent of the Book of Joshua in the Old Testament. Joshua led the second generation of Israel through the Jordan River and into Canaan. That speaks of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The spiritual Promised Land is where we should be living today – in resurrection territory. God had promised the land to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – and even to Moses – and the land was part and parcel of the rite of promise. Even so, Joshua had to appropriate it by taking possession; and *“possession”* is the keyword in the Book of Joshua. Well, this chapter of Ephesians is where we must appropriate possession of all spiritual blessings in our spiritual Promised Land — and walk in it.

Remember, all of the children of Israel were promised the land of Canaan; but for the first generation, those who didn’t bring back a correct report, and didn’t trust or obey God, it was *not* the Promised Land – it was Never-Never Land! Because they never entered in due to their unbelief. Out of an estimated two and a half million Jews that left Egypt in the exodus, only *TWO* – Joshua and Caleb – entered the land of Canaan. Well, you and I are told to enter and take possession for our enjoyment, blessings – and to be a blessing to others. Joshua had to overcome and occupy enemies in order to secure that which God had promised him, when God said, *“.... every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon shall be yours.”* See, the whole land was promised to them – but they could only enjoy that which they laid hold of. The believer today is to lay hold of all spiritual blessings in the Heavenlies. There are unsearchable riches in Christ Jesus, friends. However, until we get out our spiritual Geiger counter – meaning, the Word of God – we’ll never – ever – *NEVER* be able to mine efficiently.

The Bible has brought our Spiritual Safari some glorious declarations in this expedition through the entire Word of God; but from here to Revelation, all we’re going to have are commands! Those who have been called to such an exalted place have a *demand* made upon their way of life that is commensurate to their calling. Too many people today dwell only on the first part of Ephesians and, as a result, they mistakenly think they have

become some sort of spiritually super-duper saint. They are the ones who always talk about being part of the “*invisible church body of believers.*” Interestingly, I never see them at Sunday school; and they never arrive on time for Sunday morning worship services. I never see them at all on Thursday night for Bible study. They’re never visible when one needs to see them. They sure are good at being invisible! See, the invisible church is supposed to make itself visible down here on earth, as individuals, walking in the light as He is in the light. Walking in a manner acceptable to a holy God. Try being a little more extroverted with getting the Word of God out to the world today – and see how that helps improve your walk with the Lord.

Alright, from here to the end of Ephesians, the message from the Spirit of God through Paul is going to be restricted to those who are in Christ Jesus. If you’re reading these reports, but you’re not a born again Christian with the blood-tipped ear, then God is not asking the following things of you. Until you become a child of God, by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior in faith, these things aren’t written for you. Only those who have heard and believed the words of redemption and truth will be able to achieve an appropriate understanding through proper worship in Spirit and truth. Dead people cannot walk; irrespective of the importance of walking, or regardless of how much insistence is directed at them to walk. Selah ~

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

~ The condition of the lost man is dead. Our natural state is dead in trespasses and sins. If you send a restaurant delivery man out to the cemetery with the finest rib-eye steak in the world, there won’t be anyone there to meet him, pay the bill, and eat the steak. If you command a dead man to march, I have bad news for you: there won’t be any marching. No, Paul isn’t talking to unsaved people now. If you’re unsaved and reading this report, God bless you — but all you can do is sit on the sidelines and ask the Lord to give you life, so that you can do what He is asking His children to do. When that happens, then you can look around and determine if the saints around you are living as God wants us all to live. If I may say so myself: this safari is a fine Christian education program presented to you for free.

You're literally a fool not to avail yourself of it. Anyways, the religions of the world all say, "... *do something and you can be somebody.*" God says, "*be somebody, so I can do something with you.*"

The connective transitional word "*therefore*" in verse one reaches back and grabs everything we have already learned in Ephesians; and includes all things that God has ever done for the believer. I would be quick to point out, however, that Paul, although seated in the Heavenlies, is also seated in a Roman prison dungeon as he is writing this epistle at the time in which we are studying. That's how God seemed fit to use Paul as the apostle to the Gentiles. "*Beseech*" is *NOT* the command of Mount Sinai with all of its fire and lightning and thunderous earthquakes; no, this is the gentle-soft wooing of love. We need to let our manner of lifestyle be as becoming of the Gospel of Christ. Only then can we strive together in faith and further the cause of Christ. Only then can we become fruitful in every good work while increasing in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord.

My Christian friends, the world is watching you very, very closely right now. They can tell if you're a real and genuine child of God or not. The way they make their determination is by how and where you walk with the Lord — mostly *WHERE* you walk. If we walk in the light as Christ is the light, we have fellowship with Him; and that means to walk in the light of the Word of God. How much time do you really spend in the Word of God? Your children know how much time you spend studying the Bible. Your neighbors know — and the people in your church know, too. The lost man also knows. Well, if we want to have fellowship with our Father in Heaven, then we're going to have to walk in the light.

As a side note, many people obsessively hand out Christian tracts. Well, tracts can serve a part in an effective ministry, to be sure; but without a competent, personal connection being made, tracts are seldom fruitful. Their distribution requires an intelligent presentation and competent origin to be taken seriously. I don't see much of that in the tract-ministry crowd; who never seem to understand a ministry of any kind requires a *WHOLE LOT* of prayer and *EVEN MORE* educated understanding of the Bible, either. Most people aren't even going to read the tracts; but they sure are going to read *Y-O-U*. Candidly, I get a little bit tired of the super-duper saint, who

makes Bible study their last priority, but claim it to be their top priority. I'm not sure who they think you're kidding – but you're not kidding me – and you aren't kidding God. No, you're kidding yourself; and you're hurting the cause of Christ. The lost world looks at you and they say, “.... *no, thanks*” to the Jesus you present. You might want to think about that....

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

~ The endless selfies, ceaseless and obsessive social posts about personal goodness — all makes God sick, my beloved — plain and simple. That person's walk is so far from God that they don't even have a clue how far away from Him they really are. Now, if you haven't stopped reading my reports yet, maybe you should now. Until we are ready to bring our mind low in meekness, we will *NEVER* walk according to the vocation in which we are called. See, Paul practiced what he preached; and it was the exact opposite of pride. Let's try getting off of the binge about how great we are, for a change. A self-assumed intellectualism is perfectly laughable to everyone — except those making said assumption. Pride goeth before destruction; and the haughty spirit before a fall. Maybe you'll want to write that down, too.

Philippians 2: 3 *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves ~*

Hebrews 11: 26 *Esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt ~*

Psalms 69:22.... *their table shall become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, shall become a trap ~*

This is the flagship of Christian virtue. Meekness and lowliness characterized the Lord Jesus' earthly ministry. Jesus said, “*take upon you My yoke and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart.*” The numbers of Christians who have pride of race, pride of place, and pride of face — always have a debauched pride of grace, too. They're proud they have been saved by grace — and Christianity doesn't get any more perverted than that

ilk. They are constantly exalting themselves; precisely as their father the devil would have them do. They are Satan's angels of light. Now, I warned you explicitly two reports ago that this safari was going to get ugly. Even so, my friends, you haven't seen anything yet. Continue reading my reports at your own risk from now on. I'll be honest with you readers – because I always am honest with you – I don't plan on holding back anything from here forward in Ephesians. I have, actually, been quite reserved until now; and I know that may seem hard to believe – but, if you continue reading these reports – you'll believe it....

3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

~ So many saints rush in and want to do things in the church. They have no gift or commission whatsoever, but they insist. Most churches feel they have difficulty finding people to do certain things; but those people who won't do the right things always do the things they shouldn't be doing in a self-righteous, self-determined "*Lord's work.*" They do a disservice as they become defeated and disgusted and, sooner or later, they either disappear or drift into apostasy. They ALWAYS hate what Andrew has to say. They always accuse me of fighting with them. See, "*meekness*" never means "*weakness.*" That's where so many err. If you think for a nanosecond I am going to "*agree to disagree*" with you on Scriptural matters, you are woefully mistaken. Jesus will be your Savior or He will be your Judge — but He won't be both.

The two meekest men in the Bible were Moses in the Old Testament, and Jesus in the New Testament. Moses came down from Mount Sinai and discovered that Aaron had made the golden calf — and Moses proceeded to say some things to the children of Israel that will make the hairs on the

back of your neck stand up. Jesus called the Pharisees liars, fools, hypocrites — and the children of the devil. Maybe you'll want to check that out? The world doesn't call those things meekness, but meekness means a willingness to stand and do the will of God; irrespective of the personal cost. When is the last time you bowed yourself to the will of God? God is the Father *ONLY* of believers who have been regenerated by the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Are you *SURE* you are saved? Are you *POSITIVE* God is your Father? Well, I'm just going to leave it at that for this report; but in our next report, we are going to consider truths that are so strong, we all risk bursting into flames if you read it. I don't suggest you read anymore from the Spiritual Safari — *NONE* of you; none of it — but, if you do, may God richly bless you forevermore ~

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