

When Life Is Eating Your Lunch

Walk It Out Part 3L- What's Your Fire Ephesians 5:18

Main focus of this series: This series is a formulation of key teachings and understandings from the book of Ephesians. It is the textbook for Christian living, affective church growth and unity. It is also a manual for harmony in the home and an affective lifestyle in our work place in the world. Ephesians draws many lines, it is clear and very defined. Why many Christians fail to live fully in the shadow of the cross is because they have never ventured into the truths documented in Paul's writings to the Ephesians. In an effort to decipher each statement of Paul in Ephesians we believe we will learn how to successfully operate in the three positions of the believer: to **sit (Ephesians 1-3)**, to **walk (Ephesians 4-6:9)** and to **stand (Ephesians 6:10-24)**. The first half of Ephesians (chapters 1-3) tells us what a Christian is and the last three chapters define how to live that out in harmony with other believer's and separately from non-believer's.

The importance of this message today: Today our objective is to focus on the second segment on last weeks thought, **Intensive Peace**. In our attempt, with God's help, to walk appropriately before our Lord, it's easy to slide off onto one side of the ditch or the other while we move down the road on our spiritual journey. We can slide over and become the intense warrior of God or slide over into the spirit filled worshiper ditch, but we are to truly be a reflection of both...**intensive peace**. Now last week I don't feel like I communicated well about the intensity, the aggressive paddling under the water line...is it wrong or is it right? It depends if your right side up or upside down. If you are upside down then your flailing legs will be wisping the wind and you will get no where. By properly positioned right side up you are moving around, looking effortless while at the same time, a huge battle is taking place under the water. The Intensive Peaceful Christian is not an oxymoron, it is a mighty man and woman of God walking in balance in this life. A true mature Christian is not immune from the attacks of life, they have just as many wars and scares but have learned where the war belongs...beneath their feet. If we are to be like Christ, we know we will not be immune from the attacks of Satan and that we must learn to fight powerfully in the Spiritual dimension. Through our understanding of the events that occur in Leviticus 9-10 with Aaron's sons, we should gain a better understanding of activating the *proper fire* verses an "*unauthorized*" fire which is unacceptable to the Lord and find healthy boundaries when dealing with each other and in our relationship with God.

In chapters 1-3 we find out who we are in Christ and what He has done for us. In Chapters 4 and 5 we are learning how to walk that revelation out. And Paul gives us instructions on how we should walk that out:

- Ephesians 4:1- Walk out the **worthiness** of your calling and gift.
- Ephesians 4:2-3: Walk out how we **act toward one another**. (Five Core Virtues)
- Ephesians 4:4-6: Walk out how we become **unified believers**. (Eight "Oneders of the Word)
- Ephesians 4:7-10: Walk out how we **operate** as an individual in the body of Christ. (Each Person Gifted)
- Ephesians 4:11-13: Walk out how we **cooperate** as the body of Christ. (Five Fold Gifts)

- Ephesians 4:14-16: Walk out how we **unite** as a body of Christ. (Equipping the Saints, Maturity)
- Ephesians 5:1-7: Walk out being an **imitator** of God.
- Ephesians 5:8-14: Walk out being the **light**.
- Ephesians 5:15-17: Walk out placing “**careful**” in the right places (All of life will be an accumulation of where you placed your “careful.”)
- Ephesians 5:18-21- Walk it out being “**filled** with the Spirit.” Now it's interesting that Paul talks so much about Walking it out, but now he gives us a little more of a push. He says to be “**filled**” with the Spirit.
- Ephesians 5:22-6:1-4: Walk it out being the **family**.

The Peaceful Christian

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

Ephesians 5:18

- *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.”*

When Paul was writing to the Ephesians, we are told in the book of Acts in the Bible, that they had been worshippers of the goddess Diana, and, in all probability, worshipped the god Bacchus also. (Bacchus: god of wine) This festival was celebrated on March 16 and 17. The Bacchanalia, orgies in honor of Dionysus were notorious for their sexual and criminal character.

In their celebrations and festivals, it was part of their worship ritual to get drunk, totally stoned. I believe that in one way, drunkenness was the only way they could suppress the shameful guilt and endure such great pain of the physical violation they suffered during sexual worship rites. The sexual indulgence as part of their worship and ritual festival was a common practice and was to be expected. But it had to cross the core of some peoples **personal boundaries**, no matter what depth of perversion or depravity your culture you may be in, it had to have left some type of scares and deep question.

The numbness acquired from their drinking, somehow, was a means of alleviating the pain of being so violated and so minimized as a human being. It is no different today. Even though our culture is trying it's best to train innocent minds to the acceptance of the “no boundaries” concept of how we use our bodies, the pain of one relationship after another, one sexual encounter after another, only compounds the pain and lessens the value of the **sacred temple of our bodies**. What was considered acceptable and customary in their culture is trying to be customary in our culture. The demand for a numbing factor in our society has become more evident. **Drugs and alcohol and all sorts of addictions will always be a factor in a society when the abuse of an individuals sanctity is violated!**

Ephesian Worship

Paul is talking to believers who had not only learned to accept perversion as an act of worship, but worship was taught to be experienced in an inebriated state. What a turning and changing of their ways. Can you imagine turning the thinking of a whole culture deeply embedded in this type of thinking? Evidently Paul succeeded at his attempt to destroy this thinking. He hit them at the core of their very being. He was

addressing their worship toward God. He was saying, worshiping God and drinking does not mix, even more than drinking and driving.

- **“...be filled with the Spirit.”**

Be Filled With The Spirit

The Biblical command in Ephesians 5:18 to be filled with the Spirit. **The present tense in the Greek in this verse, shows that God wants us to be continually filled with the Spirit.** This marks the **difference between baptism**, which is a once for all complete act (Eph. 2:22; 4:4-6,30; I Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:9) **and infilling, which is many acts** (Eph.5:18) Here are three truths concerning the Spirit:

1. **The Filling of The Spirit Does Not Need Artificial Help**- Vs. 18a - **"Do not get drunk on wine..."**

The deception is that you need something else to mix with your worship, that your heart and God is not enough. Satan wants your worship and wants to distract you from God. Alcohol is the substitute for A Spirit but not THEE Spirit.

2. **The Filling of The Spirit Does Not Offer Attempted Hope**- Vs. 18b- **"...which leads to debauchery."**

The infilling of the Spirit does not offer attempted hope like wine, alcohol or drugs or some other type of addiction, it is THE hope. It promotes...

- The Healer
- The Savior
- The Redeemer
- The Restorer of Hope

Debauchery/Dissipation (810) (riot, KJV) (*asotia* related to *ásotos* which in turn is derived from a = negative + *sozo* = save which **describes something devoid of saving quality**) **literally means that which cannot be saved.**

This worship mixed with additional substance...mixed worship leads to debauchery, that which cannot be saved.

3. **The Filling of The Spirit Does Not Need Additional Hallmarks**- Vs. 18c - **"...but be filled with the spirit."** The true meaning of a "hallmark" is an official mark stamped on gold and silver articles in England to attest their purity.

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He *anointed* us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

II Corinthians 1:21-22

The blood of Jesus is enough to cover our inability to be acceptable before God. The Spirit of God is enough to anoint you, seal you and put His Spirit in your hearts so that we may say, "He is enough for my tomorrow!" There must be a willingness for God to move into our heart-"Lord, I'm open to You..." The Spirit filling in a believer does not just happen, it is a commanded responsibility of the followers of Christ.

Leviticus 9: Three Sacrificial Offerings

In Leviticus 9, God wants to establish a means of relationship with the people of Israel. God does not play mind games, He is always up front of His intentions and purposes. God instructs Moses to call Aaron, (his brother), Aaron's sons and the elders of Israel to participate in **three levels of sacrificial offering** so that there might be a permanent relationship between His people and Himself. As far as relationships are concerned, we have barriers that build up from time to time between ourselves and our significant others. We not only need healing in those areas of our lives but we need to learn a correct process of restoration. This relationship barrier is no different in our relationship with God. There is a separation that can take place between ourselves and God and our spouse and ourselves. Here is a Key Relationship Point I want to make to help hang our hat on as we discuss this, this morning.

Key Relationship Point is: For relationships on any level to be restored there has to be an equal process of exchange.

Actually God gives us these **three relationship levels that require different/specific types of sacrifices**. Besides Moses instructing Aaron to take a bull calf, without defect, and sacrifice it for a **sin offering**, (Lev. 9:2), personally for himself before the Lord, he also instructed the Israelites to sacrifice in three ways:

Sin Offering- Leviticus 9:15

*“Aaron then brought the offering that was for the people. He took the **goat** for the people's **sin offering** and slaughtered it and offered it for a sin offering as he did with the first one.”*

Leviticus 9:15

Sacrifice a **male goat** for a **sin offering**, (Leviticus 9:2,15) (**for rebellion, denial, violation and abandonment** because our sin separates us from God. This sacrifice was established so that the Israelites could **repent and reestablish purity and holiness** in the eyes of God thus restoring their relationship)

- The **sin offering** was a means of establishing an act of public submission, repentance on our part and a showing of forgiveness on God's part. It addressed the moral code of the relationship. The **sin offering** was an **expression of the law**.

Burnt Offering- Leviticus 9:16-17

*“He brought the **burnt offering** and offered it in the prescribed way. He also brought the grain offering, took a handful of it and burned it on the altar in addition to the morning's burnt offering.”*

Leviticus 9:16-17

Sacrifice a **calf and a lamb** for a **burnt offering**, (Leviticus 9:3,16-17) (**for breaking of commitments and loyalty and lack of prioritizing**). It was a type of **covenant offering**, recommitting your **loyalty and allegiance**)

- The **burnt offering** was an act of reestablishing covenant, a commitment to the relationship. The burnt offering says, “All I have is yours and I will

sacrifice as an expression of that.” It is not only clearing the air of any wrong doings or confessing a wayward heart, but it is an expression of loyalty and allegiance. It addressed the covenant made between the two. The **burnt offering** was one that was an **expression of covenant and commitment**.

Fellowship Offering- Leviticus 9:18-21

“He slaughtered the ox and the ram as the fellowship offering for the people. His sons handed him the blood, and he sprinkled it against the altar on all sides. But the fat portions of the ox and the ram—the fat tail, the layer of fat, the kidneys and the covering of the liver- these they laid on the breasts, and then Aaron burned the fat on the altar. Aaron waved the breasts and the right thigh before the LORD as a wave offering, as Moses commanded.”

Leviticus 9:18-21

Sacrifice an **ox and a ram** along with **grain mixed with oil** for a **fellowship offering**, (Leviticus 9:4,18-21) (**for the lack of attentiveness and pursuit of the heart**. This was the level where **worship and intimacy** takes place).

- The **fellowship offering** was an expression of going deeper, more intimate, heart to heart. This offering is the romantic side, this is the deep love. It addressed the emotional connection of the two. The **fellowship offering** was one that was an **expression of love**.

Offering	Offense	Purpose
Sin Offering (Leviticus 9:2,15)	Rebellion, denial, violation and abandonment	Addresses Separation : Repent and reestablish purity and holiness
Burnt Offering (Leviticus 9:3,16-17)	Breaking commitments, loyalty and lack of prioritizing	Addresses Relationship : Recommitting your loyalty and allegiance as a type of covenant
Fellowship Offering/ Grain Offering (Leviticus 9:4,18-2)	Lack of attentiveness and pursuit of the heart. Also the absence of nurturing	Addresses Intimacy : Worship and intimacy as well as the care giving and additional provision

Promise of Responding Correctly

All the people obeyed the words of Moses and moved to the front of the Tent of Meeting and started the sacrifices. And Moses gives them little promises of what they would see if they would proceed as commanded:

“...For today the Lord will appear to you.”
Leviticus 9:4b

“This is what the Lord has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the Lord may appear to you.”
Leviticus 9:6

Can you see this? Moses is saying, “If you can respond to the Word of the Lord as He says, He is going to show up! You will see Him and all His glory.” Aaron made the appropriate sacrifices with the help of his sons just as the Lord commanded, first for

himself, (Leviticus 9:5-14) and then for the people, (Leviticus 9:15-21)

- Guys, how long did it take for you to understand that flowers, a card or candy didn't fix it all? What level do you think those tactics work on? (Fellowship Offering)
- What happens when a person is looking for a Fellowship Offering and when the issue of not feeling valued or pursued is addressed and the person confronted apologizes like they have failed miserably, as if it was a separation issue? It makes a person frustrated, uneasy and worried.
- What do you think a guy thinks ladies when he is not pursuing you enough but you say, "We don't even have a relationship!" That may be true in some cases, but if it isn't, if it is angry words trying to get his attention and you are playing games with him and you are wanting repentance as if he has run around on you in an adulterous affair when in all reality you are wanting and probably needing some attention and prioritizing, a little "Fellowship Offering" is what you are wanting and needing.
- **Key Relationship Point: For relationships on any level to be restored there has to be an equal process of exchange. Crime equals punishment or in this case, offering equals offense.**
 - You cannot respond with the correct offering if you do not properly diagnose the correct offense.
 - Different level of relationships require different types of sacrifices.
 - When an individual offends another individual and learns to respond correctly, they will respond antiquity with words that recognize the transgression or level of violation and respect and acknowledge the feelings of the one offended.

God's Response To His People

"Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell face down.

Leviticus 9:23-24

How To Kill A Relationship

The same is true with the Spirit of God that lives in you. It is the person of God that lives within you. The Spirit responds to our life as we live it and we are cautioned to be careful with it. It is not weak or fearful, it is the expressed person of God who lives inside us.

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

Ephesians 4:30

- "Do not grieve the Spirit". That is, do not stifle or suppress the Spirit's will for us. We are constantly commended to yield to the Spirit's control (Rom. 6:13).

"Do not put out the Spirit's fire."

I Thessalonians 5:19

- **"Do not grieve the Spirit".** That is by sinning. Grieving the Spirit will in turn lead to quenching the Spirit by ignoring His Spirit's tug and eventually falling totally into sin, which in turn leads to loss of fellowship and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-24). The remedy for sin is confession (I John 1:9).

Aaron's Sons Quenched and Grieved The Spirit

"Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD."

Leviticus 10:1-2

But instead...

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Ephesians 5:18

- **Galatians 5:16 - "Walk by the power of the Spirit".** Walk by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, which is a daily continuing act of the believer delivering one's self to the Holy Spirit's control. Failure to do so will result in the loss of spiritual power and failure in life.

What Is Our Hope?

*"Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, **because he always lives to intercede for them.**"*

Hebrews 7:23-25

*"Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. **He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.**"*

Hebrews 7:26-27

Our ability to ignore the work of the Spirit in our lives causes us to grieve the Holy Spirit and we can eventually quench His Spirit's voice. We lose that tugging that we once knew. We lose the fellowship and the intimacy of that relationship. I am so glad I don't have to come into my relationship with God questioning what level of offense I am at or which sacrifice was needed. Jesus paid it all. He became my sacrifice. My actions can grieve Him all the way to quenching His voice, presence and work in my life. But I can call on Him and ask Him to speak again to my heart.

His Amazing Grace

A recent motion picture by the name "Amazing Grace," was based on the life of

antislavery pioneer **William Wilberforce**. In **1784**, **21-year-old William Wilberforce** was elected to the British House of Commons, and soon established himself as a politician with a conscience. Several years later, his close friend William Pitt became prime minister, and together they spent two decades attempting to introduce a bill banning slavery before the English legislature. However, pro-slavery hard-liners Lord Tarleton and the Duke of Clarence spearheaded a hard-fought opposition to the legislation, and despite Wilberforce's best efforts, his bill went down in defeat.

In **1797**, **Wilberforce left politics due to poor health** and a **battered spirit**; staying at the country home of his friends Henry and Marianne Thornton and Sylvestra LeTouzelle, he became acquainted with **Barbara Spooner, a beautiful woman with progressive views. Spooner became deeply infatuated with Wilberforce, and she encouraged him not to give up on his noble goals. With her help, Wilberforce launched a second campaign to persuade England's lawmakers to end the slave trade.**

But the **song, Amazing Grace** was written by **John Newton** a former slave trader whose hard heart was broken through treacherous events and his conversion while on his slave ship, the Greyhound, in 1748. Newton later became a preacher of the gospel. He not only spoke out against the evils of slavery but the freedom for every man through Jesus Christ our Lord. John wrote the song Amazing Grace while preparing a message on an Old Testament text that reminded him of his old life without Christ. The lyrics are based on his reflections on an Old Testament text he was preparing to preach on, adding his perspective about his own conversion