

## Identity 12: Ephesians 4:1-6

The fact that I am in prison does not IN THE LEAST diminish my awareness that I AM IN CHRIST! My complete existence is defined and confined in him. THE DETAIL OF YOUR DAY TO DAY LIFE FLOWS FROM THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF YOUR TRUE IDENTITY AND WORTH DEFINED IN HIM. (We are indeed seated together with him in heavenly places! No distraction or contradiction can reduce my life to any other reality...) [Eph. 4:1](#)

The KJV says, "...that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called." It is a summons and invitation TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ITS PRIVILEGES I.E. THE DIVINE CALL. It is a call that is more than a call to Christian service or ministry, a Christian profession. IT IS ALL THE KINGDOM AND YOUR ROLE IN IT. In the dictionary, vocation is 1) a particular occupation, business or profession; calling; 2) a strong impulse or inclination to follow a particular activity or career; 3) a divine call to God's service or to the Christian life; 4) a function or station in life to which one is called by God. HERE IS EPHESIANS IT IS "USED OF ONE WHOM GOD DECLARES WORTHY OF THE CALLING WHICH HE HAS COMMANDED TO BE GIVEN HIM, AND THEREFORE FIT TO OBTAIN THE BLESSINGS PROMISED IN THE CALL. I hope you are seeing that your life **is defined by this invitation into the kingdom, your identity, and your role in God's kingdom.** When you are conscious of these things, your DAY TO DAY LIFE WILL FLOW FROM THIS IMPACTING EVERY AREA. It is when people are not conscious that they cast off restraint and live how they desire.

A very interesting definition is an **INVITATION TO A BANQUET.**

### [Luke 14:16-24](#) (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,

<sup>17</sup> and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

<sup>18</sup> But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'

<sup>19</sup> And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'

<sup>20</sup> Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

<sup>21</sup> So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the* poor and *the* maimed and *the* lame and *the* blind.'

<sup>22</sup> And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'

<sup>23</sup> Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.

<sup>24</sup> For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

The context of this parable is that the man sent out an initial invitation or summons to the great supper in which the guests accepted. Then when the meal was ready on the appointed date, the notice was sent that the meal was ready. This was common practice in the Lord's day. This is speaking of Israel's initial invitation into the kingdom but when the Messiah came, they rejected the call to believe. Note their excuses: financial obligations and relationship obligations I.E. THE THINGS OF THE WORLD BECAME MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Their DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT FILTERED THROUGH OR DEFINED BY THEIR TRUE IDENTITY, WORTH, AND EXISTENCE IN HIM. **God does not mind financial or relationship obligations, but WHEN ANYTHING TAKES PRIORITY OVER HIM AND HIS KINGDOM, HE HAS A PROBLEM, which led to the disqualification of those initially called.**

### **Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**

<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

### **2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

Paul FROM PRISON is saying that if he in his current state lives in such a way that he remains conscious of his position in Christ and prison doesn't in the least diminish this reality, WE NOT IMPRISONED FOR OUR FAITH MUST ALSO LIVE DAY TO DAY WITH THE SAME CONSCIOUSNESS. With this understanding of our incredible position in the kingdom, Paul continues.

Meekness and tenderness are the fabric of your make-up; this enables you to show compassion even in seemingly impossible situations, eagerly bearing with one another in an environment WHERE LOVE RULES. BEING VIGILANT TO GUARD YOUR ONENESS OF SPIRIT. We are prisoners of peace. We confirm the fact that there is only one body; also that there is only one Spirit. We are identified in one expectation; THERE IS NO PLAN B. We bear the same surname. We are employed by the same Boss; we share the same faith, and our baptism says the same thing. (There is only one faith! Not what we believe about God but what God believes about us! Baptism declares that we are equally included in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our faith does not invent God; HIS FAITH DEFINES US!) [Eph. 4:2-5](#).

Paul now shifts into how the CHURCH IS TO INTERACT WITH ONE ANOTHER in order to mature into the full stature of Jesus Christ. WITHOUT BIBLICAL UNITY AND LOVE IN OUR INTERACTIONS, WE WILL NEVER REACH THIS MATURITY. **We are only as strong as our weakest link, which is why it is so important to deal with that link as the Spirit leads.**

Meekness is "humble, lowliness of mind, esteeming of ourselves small, CORRECT ESTIMATE OF OURSELVES." All of us are unworthy of God's grace but the value HE

PLACED ON US comes from HIS OWN GOODNESS not anything we have done. We are to remember this and realize that His favor and blessings does not mean we are superior but instead mean HE IS SUPERIOR! **BEING MEEK IS SIMPLY AGREEING WITH WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU WITHOUT EXAGGERATION OR PRIDE AND REALIZING THAT IF NOT FOR HIS GRACE, YOU WOULD NOT BE WHO YOU ARE IN HIM.**

There are two sides of humility:

1. True humility, which is described above. However, it can appear as pride like in David's case when he knew he could defeat Goliath. HIS CONFIDENCE WAS NOT IN HIS ABILITY BUT IN GOD'S ABILITY THROUGH HIM. Moses panned with his own hand that HE WAS THE MOST HUMBLE MAN ON EARTH. He was repeating what God told him.
2. False humility often masquerades as humility but it's a tearing down of yourself to APPEAR AS HUMBLE. It's unbelief in what God has said about you. It can be corrupted because once a person accomplishes some things or begins ministry getting results, he or she can become prideful for these things feed the ego. Saul was described as someone small in his own eyes but once he became king, he grew prideful, stubborn and rebellious.

GOD WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO KILL PRIDE IN YOU AND ANY NEED FOR THE RECOGNITION OF MAN. Tenderness is actually the best word for MEEK. It is mildness and forbearance. It is patience under difficult circumstances. It is ACCEPTANCE OF GOD'S DEALINGS WITH US CONSIDERING THEM GOOD AND ENHANCING OUR CLOSENESS TO HIM. **However, meekness does include EXPRESSING WRATH TOWARD THE SIN OF MAN AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE LORD WHEN HE DISPLAYED ANGER TOWARD THOSE WHO WERE CHIDING HIM FOR DOING GOOD ON THE SABBATH.** Meekness does NOT blame God for persecutions or the evil of men. I HOPE YOU CAN SEE THAT EXERCISING BOTH HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS RESULTS IN PROPER INTERACTION. YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF LEST YOU FALL AND DON'T HAVE A HIGH OPINION OF YOURSELF AND YOU DEAL WITH PEOPLE USING ANGER IF NECESSARY OR MILDNESS.

#### **[Ephesians 4:2 \(NKJV\)](#)**

<sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

Longsuffering is using SELF-RESTRAINT. You might want to punch someone in the face, but you don't. When humility and meekness are operating in you, you have an ability to have compassion even when it seems IMPOSSIBLE. I like how Francois says, "EAGERLY BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER WERE **LOVE RULES.**" I have spoken so much on love that you know by now LOVE GOD WELL AND SEEK HIS HIGHER GOOD (HIS KINGDOM PURPOSES) FIRST, THEN YOURSELF (ENSURING YOU DON'T ENABLE OTHERS OR BECOME CODEPENDENT) AND 3) YOUR NEIGHBOR. So if your neighbor is damaging you or repeatedly

causing problems, you have PERMISSION to limit contact and have healthy boundaries while you pray for that person and even use anger if needed.

We are to bear with one another "in love." It is in the sphere of the love that God the Holy Spirit produces in the heart of the yielded believer ([Gal. 5:22](#)), that we are to be patient with each other as misunderstandings arise, as cutting words are said, as unkind actions are done.

Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament - Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament – Volume 1.

### [Ephesians 4:3 \(NKJV\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

BE VIGILENT TO GUARD OUR ONENESS. As I've said before, those who cause disunity in the body anger me BECAUSE IT HINDERS THE CORPORATE ANOINTING AND THE SPIRIT'S MANIFEST PRESENCE. Just as a body with a missing limb does not function at 100%, the body of Christ at disunity does not operate at 100%. ENDEAVORING means TO DO ONE'S BEST. It is a DETERMINED EFFORT with the idea of EXERTION behind it. It is GUARDING SOMETHING. Unity is the AGREEMENT AMONG CHRISTIANS THAT IS THE PRODUCT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. It is peace that is the BINDING FACTOR of this unity.

Expositors says: "The unity, therefore, which is wrought among these Ephesians by the Spirit of God will be theirs in so far as they make peace the relation which they maintain one to another, or the bond in which they walk together."

Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament - Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament – Volume 1.

Your interaction with believers determines the UNITY BOUND WITH PEACE that is operative. If you start trouble, are jealous, compete, unkind, gossip, etc., you are the problem not the other people. And if the behavior continues without repentance, Paul said to note that person (esp. those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine) and AVOID them ([Rom. 16:17](#)). WHEN YOU CAUSE DISUNITY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS, YOU ARE ATTACHING THE LORD'S BODY, WHICH RESULTS IN YOUR PHYSICAL BODY BEING ATTACKED ([1 Cor. 11:27-34](#)).

We are all CHRISTIANS. We all share the same faith, same boss, same baptism (this is not referring to water baptism in this context. It is clearly the Holy Spirit baptism), etc. THERE IS NO PLAN B. And like Paul said in Galatians that if you keep biting and devouring one another, there will be nothing left. THE ENEMY KNOWS THE POWER OF UNITY FOR A DEMONIC UNITY AT THE TOWER OF BABEL RESULTED IN GOD COMING DOWN TO STOP THEM FOR THEY WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR GOALS! **Once a body of believers gets this spiritual law, there is nothing that body cannot do. THEREFORE THE ENEMY DOES WHAT HE MUST TO DESTROY UNITY.**

PERSONALITY TEST.