

Ephesians 4:1-16 "You've Sat Long Enough, Start Walking!"

July 16, 2023 Pastor Lee Talley

[#1] God is the **INITIATOR**, we the **RESPONDERS**. We don't love Him *so* He'll love us. We love Him *because* He first "loved us and gave Himself for us"! (Gal. 2:20b)

[#2] We must be those who extend **MERCY** lavishly and bestow **GRACE** freely – like Jesus!

(1 Peter 4:8)

[#3] This is the **MARK** of those who are walking in Jesus: Jesus' fervent love filling their hearts and then overflowing to touch those near them!

[#4] **ONE** body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, Father.

(Heb. 12:2)

[#5] Although there is **UNITY** within the body of Christ, there is also **DIVERSITY**.

(1 Cor. 12:14-17, Luke 16:22-31, 2 Cor. 5:8, Acts 2:42, Rom. 16:7, John 21:15-19)

[#6] When the saints are equipped for the work of the ministry ... the whole Church grows healthy and strong in the Lord... We are all **MINISTERS!**

[#7] **First** we must learn to '**SIT** / rest' in His mercy and grace ... **Then**, in response to His love, we must learn to '**WALK**' worthy of the calling with which you were called ...

Jesus ...

²⁰ ...is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3:20–21)

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Food for Thought for the week of July 16, 2023

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

- 1) This week we were challenged to *WALK* in light of what God has done for us. One of the ways we do this is by loving others. What stands out to you from the following passage?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - "[4] Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; [5] does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; [6] does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; [7] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [8] Love never fails."

What are two aspects of love you're doing well at?

What are two aspects of love you could most improve in?

Is there any particular person God is leading you to better love, as described in that passage?

- 2) How might the following proverbs help you better love others and/or help you remain *united* in Jesus with others?

Proverbs 18:2 - "A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart."

Proverbs 29:11 - "A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back."

Proverbs 19:11 - "The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression."

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3) Pride prevents us from loving others and causes division in the body. What do the following passages teach you about pride, humility, and God's plan for you?

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 16 - "[2] *And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. [3] "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. ... [16] "who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end--"*

1 Peter 5:5-6 - "[5] *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." [6] Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,"*

What is one reason God might allow you to suffer or be in need?

What can you do to help kill pride in your heart?

4) Since we are all "ministers" - what are you doing now to serve the LORD?

Is there anything else God is leading you to serve Him in?

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