

THE CHRISTIAN WALK

An Introduction to Ephesians Chapters 4 to 6

INTRODUCTION :

We are labelled by how we walk.

When I was an 18 year old kid, one of the labels that they called me was “ponga” simply because I walk like a Chinese person. We definitely can label who a person is and what he feels by the way he walks. Show examples : like

- Shy
- Boastful
- Suffered loss
- Confident

Look at the president of the nation, they have a very authoritative and confident kind of walk. They are walking according to the position and the power that was given to them.

Accordingly, a Christian is known on how he walks.

**Read Ephesians 4:1-3*

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Pray

A Quick Look Back :

Ever since our Lord started this church last January and by His grace merged us as one church in March, we were studying the book of Ephesians and just finished last week the the first part of it which is from chapters 1 to 3

Why?

Answer : Before we can live the Christian life, we have to be sure on what we have

***Quote :** You live what you believe

Illustration : The small town child whose mom was known as a promiscuous woman who slept with different men. So this child was always teased, “you look like the child of...” and so forth. But this kid loves going to church to hear God’s word but he makes sure he comes in when everyone is inside and stays at the back and leaves right after the service is over. He does this to prevent people from ridiculing him. But one day, while the choir was singing their final song and he was just sneaking out, an arm grabbed him and it was the pastor of the church. He was greeted with a smile but the pastor said to the child, “ You look familiar. You look

like a child of...” So the boy thought he was going to be teased again even by the pastor. But the pastor told him.... “You look like a child of God. Go and live like one.” The boy came out of the church very confident after that one and grew up to become one of the presidents of the United States

***In short** - as we studied the past 6 months, we have to know

- The Position Accorded to The Christian - The Christian's riches
And use
- The Power Available for the Christian - The Christian's resources
Before we can...
- The Practice Appropriate of a Christian - The Christian's race

***Filipino saying :** Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makakarating sa pinaroroonan.

***I. THE POSITION ACCORDED TO THE CHRISTIAN**

Ephesians 1 – 3:13

- ***We have been adopted by the Father through Jesus Christ**

Ephesians 1: ⁵he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

Application : We love to connect with famous or rich or powerful people. It makes us feel important?

1st Proof : How many times we catch ourselves saying, “I’m connected with the mayor of the town who is the cousin of my best friend...” or “Hey, that famous person was my schoolmate in high school” What else are we looking for?

2nd Proof : From Loreto Umali to Loreto Zobel De Ayala

Important : What else are we looking for? We are God’s children. That’s our connection.

Question : When did God decide to adopt us? “...predestined..”

**Ephesians 1: ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

- ***We have been atoned by the blood of Jesus Christ**

Ephesians 1: ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Application : We now have a right relationship with God so anytime we can come to Him.

**Hebrews 4: ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Important : This is because of what Christ did for us on the cross.

- ***We have been assured of our place in heaven through the Holy Spirit.**

Ephesians 1: ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Example 1 : watching a concert. ” Hey walk faster because we might not have any more seats” and then your friend will say, ”Don’t worry, we have reserved seats

Example 2 : Wife : “are you sure that car is ours already.” Husband, “Yes, because I already paid for it.”

That’s what Christ is telling us...our reservation in heaven is for sure! Why? It’s because He paid for it already on the cross.

***That’s why Paul prayed in**

Ephesians 1: 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

- ***We were made alive in Christ.**

Ephesians 2: ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Application : Now we have a capacity to have a living and loving relationship with Christ? Can you have a loving relationship with a dead person? We were dead before in sin.

Important : We were dead in sin before so God can’t have a living and loving relationship with us. Now because of Christ, we were made alive.

How did this happen? Remember, we can’t even react to God since we are dead (that’s the attribute of a dead person...cannot react)

**Ephesians 2: ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*

- ***We were assimilated with the church of Jesus Christ**

Ephesians 2: ¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

**Ephesians 3 :⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

Application : We are part of God's plan and we know God's plan.

Illustration : Three months ago, the company retrenched 40 people. People don't know that there will be a retrenchment so they don't know that they were being retrenched. But before the day of the retrenchment, my boss already talked to me saying that there will be a retrenchment tomorrow but said not to worry because I'm not part of it.

What an assurance of course but at the same time, sad over the thought of the other people who came out the door laughing that day not knowing that they won't have any jobs tomorrow.

Just like us Christians, a time will come when the Big Boss in Heaven will do an eternal retrenchment. Isn't it an assurance that we know this plan and God saying to us that we are not included in that retrenchment? But also a cause of concern if we know that the people who are laughing today would be part of that retrenchment specially if they are our loved ones?

Hinge 1 : Since we know our position already, we also have been given the power to live the Christian life...if we only appropriate it.

***II. THE POWER AVAILABLE FOR THE CHRISTIAN**

Ephesians 3:14-21

- ***Inner strength from the Holy Spirit**

Ephesians 3:¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Application : Strength to resist temptation and strength to endure trials.

- ***Indwelling love of Christ**

Ephesians 3: ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the

saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge

Application : You can let Christ take over your life because he dwells (katoikeio)

Illustration : If the devil tries to knock on the door of our hearts, we let Christ be the one to answer because He is now the owner of our lives.

- ***Infinite fullness of God**

Ephesians 3: that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Application : You will never feel not in control because we know God is in control. We will have all the capacity to live life to the full. A life that was designed for us.

Illustration : Gallup Poll : Fewer than 10 percent of Americans are deeply committed Christians, says pollster George Gallup, who adds that these people “are far, far happier than the rest of the population.”

Most of us find happiness in something else and thinks that having a relationship with Christ is cheesy, just for a Sunday but would never really give us ‘TRUE’ happiness. But if we only commit ourselves to Christ, we will see as the poll says, we will be “far, far happier than the rest of the population.” Not the shallow kind of happiness of the world (counterfeit happiness offered by Satan)

***Question again last week :** How do we avail this power?

If we constantly connect with God. If we surrender our lives to God and give him the steering wheels of our lives.

Hinge 2 : Now we know our position and the power, this is now the time that we can practice the Christian life.

Illustration : What if you just bought a new car that has a very powerful engine? How would you enjoy it? By just thinking that you own the car? By just looking at the car? By just sitting on the car? NO ! By driving it!!!

That’s also how we can enjoy the fullness of the Christian life that Christ gave us...if we practice it.

III. THE PRACTICE APPROPRIATE OF A CHRISTIAN (explain)

Ephesians 4-6

Illustration : Youtube - Claudine Barreto walking and then tripped and dirty words came out of her mouth. When I became a Christian that's the first thing God washed away from me.

Quote : The Christian Life is not hard...it is impossible (if we don't know our position and don't use the power available for us.)

***The Hinge Verse:** (explain this)

Ephesians 4: 1As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. (NIV)

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.” (KJV)

Explain : How Paul explains things (major doctrinal letters)

Other Hinge Verses in other letters coming from Paul

**Romans 12:1 1I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

**Galatians 5:1 1Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

***Quotation :**

- It is not what men eat but what they digest that makes them strong;
- Not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich;
- Not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned;
- *Not what we preach but what we practice that makes us Christians.

**Ephesians 4:1 “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”*

Etymology : vocation – klesis - an invitation, a calling

To practice the Christian life

***1. It is a sacrificial calling**

Ephesians 4:1 “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”

Explain : Paul simply because he was practicing the Christian life was put into prison because of it.

***Biblical applications :** To practice new life we have to leave the old life.

Colossians 3:7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices “

**Luke 9: 23* Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (explain right interpretation)

The example of Daniel 8 : He was practicing his prayer time but he was put into the den of lions

Another example : We have to sacrifice our time, talent and treasure to follow Christ and bring people to Christ

Quote : Hudson Taylor. when he was being interviewed regarding the hardships he faced in his China mission, the interviewer commented, what a great sacrifice he did. He said, “It was no sacrifice at all.”

Why did he say that? Is it a sacrifice if you are doing something for the one you love. Is it a sacrifice to know that you are part of the expansion of God’s kingdom?

***2. It is an important calling**

Ephesians 4:1 “Therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”

Etymology : beseech “parakaleo” beg; to go by the side to call

Explain : This is very important for Paul. Why?

Remember : That there are five gospels, Matthew, mark, Luke, John and you...other people might not read the other four gospels but they will read your life.

Etymology : walk worthy – peripateo - peri (on the other side) peripheral, perimeter (boundary) pateo - to advance

Explain : We now live our lives based on who we are...and who are we? Christians...so we must live Christlike lives. And there are certain rules we need to follow in order to live Christlike lives...

Question : What is the hypocritical Christian? It was always explained to us in a sort of condescending way. But the hypocrite Christian is the one living a carnal life when in fact he is not that already.

*3. It is a high calling

Ephesians 4:1 “Therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”

Etymology : called “kaleo” a salute calling out one’s name

Question: Why is it a high calling?

Answer : It is God who is calling.

The importance of the call depends on the one who is calling.

Example : If Prime Minister told you that you have a special mission...it’s a high calling. It’s a privilege... God is the one calling you to live the life that you have right now.

CONCLUSION :

Question : Why are there so many Christians na "weak" or "discouraged",?

1. Simply because they are trying to live the Christian life without knowing what they already have and how they can use.
2. They were taught that the Christian life (specially the western) is having a "comfortable" life.

Very Important :

- Christians have forgotten that we are at war. (We will learn that later). We are fighting for the souls of men and women who are held captive by Satan. And if we are at war, you must choose a side. We are now in God’s side. We are now part of God’s army.
- It is also a daily war.
- But we don't have to fight it alone.

*THE GOOD NEWS :

- *"The battle is Lord's"* **1 Samuel 17:47** - remember that David wasn't saying this to himself. He was saying this to Goliath.
- *"Never will I leave you nor will I forsake you"* **Hebrews 13:5** - this one refers to finances
- **verse 6** *"So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

SUMMONS - Our duty

***SEMPER FI.** That's the motto of the United States Marines. They're the first ones in in a war and the last ones out.

SEMPER FI means "Always Faithful"

S.G.D.