

November 27, 2022

**Week 8 | October 27 | Ephesians 4:17-28**

**Sermon:** Stewards of God's Grace

**Themes:** Work, honesty, generosity, neighborly love, needs

**Focus:** Read the passage for today as you prepare to share in worship with the church family. Use your worksheet to jot down any notes or questions you might want to revisit in this week's focus.

**Scripture Memorization:** Ephesians 4:32 NIV Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**This week's Prayer:** That we, as a church body, would put these things into practice starting with calling one another to check in, considering small groups, book study groups, and prayer groups, and hosting game nights with members of the body.

**Monday: Read Ephesians Eph. 4:4-6 Devotional Task:** The Scripture here highlights our relationship to one another by pointing out the source of our connection. He says we are united by Christ in his body, by the same spirit, the same hope [objective], the same Lord [leader] faith, baptism [identity], God and Father. Is that unity evident by how you live among the church family members? Which ones of those eight unifiers that God put in place do you need to honor with more intentionality?

**Tuesday: Read Ephesians 4:32. Devotional Task:** Discuss with someone the following:

1. When it comes to demonstrating and receiving "kindness" from members of the church body, where can you point out where you most model kindness and where you are vulnerable to receiving kindness?
2. How would you describe kindness practically? Does kindness require someone to have a need, or can biblical kindness within the body become a cultural norm? Explain your answer, please.
3. Philippians 2:3-4 NIV Says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." What does selfish ambition look like in your life?
4. Complete this sentence, "if more people in the church were like me, we would be blessed to have far less \_\_\_\_\_ but unfortunately, or more \_\_\_\_\_."

**Wednesday: Read Philippians 2:3-4 Devotional Task:** In his passage, scripture compares vain conceit with humility that values others. Share an example where you have displayed "vain conceit" among the body of Christ and one where you have demonstrated humility that values others.

**Thursday: Read Ephesians 4:23: Devotional Task:** Scripture says here that we are to be renewed in the spirit of our minds [our belief system, which is the window through which we see life]. This is a very challenging demand. The mind is entertained by what it already believes. This means we must feed our minds things more biblical than what our minds desire. What do you do at least three times a week to replace what is carnally entertaining to you with what is biblical?

**Friday: Read Ephesians 4:28. Devotional Task:** This verse can be a bit misleading as it might suggest that the church body has a problem with theft. In this case, it means those who benefit from the church yet contribute nothing or very little. The needs of the church should be met because God's grace is sufficient. However, many don't experience God's grace because some contribute little to nothing while others continuously give time, talent, treasure, and trust to ensure that the church is fully functional. Are you a thief, reaping the benefits of biblical teaching, biblical fellowship, biblical support, etc.? Yet you contribute little to ensuring that the church body enjoys your gifts and talents. What do you notice that the church can do better, and how can you step up/team up to contribute more to that area?

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