The Believer's Spiritual Relationship With God

The Epistle to the Ephesians

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

AV 1611 Bible Companion

"To the praise of the glory of His grace" Ephesians 1:6

INSTRUCTOR'S EDITION

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The Christian's Walk

How to Actually Live the Christian Life Ephesians 4

I. Introduction

- A. The first three chapters were all about the blessings we get as believers
- B. The last three chapters are about our walk our responsibilities as believers
- C. The word walk shows up 7 times in the book of Ephesians
- D. The idea of the Christian's walk is simply just that, it is a walk. That walk begins with one step of faith, it involves progress, and demands strength. If a person does not learn to walk, he will never be able to run (Heb 12:1,2) nor fight the battles against the devil (Eph 6:11-ff).
- E. We cannot walk with God when we lag back in sin, nor can we walk with Him when we, like children, try to run ahead of Him. A walk implies a persistent and consistent progress in a certain direction. Our walk permits a fellowship that is not possible if we lag behind or run ahead. Much more can be said for the Christian walk if we would consider its aspects of fellowship with Him. The important thing to keep in mind is that to have the right relationship and fellowship with the Lord, we must be right with Him. Otherwise, there can be no walk of unity. Amos asked, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). That was the main reason that Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden in the first place: God could no longer walk with Adam in the Garden (Gen 3:8,22-24). It was one reason that God took Enoch to Heaven with Him (Gen 5:24, "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."). Isn't it something that God enjoyed the fellowship with Enoch so much that He took him on into Heaven with Him?
- F. This chapter and the next will show the importance of the believer's walk in that it preserves unity, promotes usefulness and prescribes conduct.
 - 1. Walk Worthy
 - 2. Walk Together
 - 3. Walk Gifted
 - 4. Walk Differently

II. Message – Ephesians Chapter Four

- A. Walk Worthy (Eph 4:1-3)
 - 1. We have an automatic Vocation Calling the moment we got saved!
 - a. This is not a "vacation", but a "vocation". It involves total surrender to the work and responsibilities that God expects each Christian to do.
 - b. A vocation speaks of an occupation or career that a person is involved with. How happy a person is that makes God's work their career!
 - c. As a child of God now no longer as a child of the devil, or of darkness
 - d. As a joint-heir of Jesus Christ super wealthy (Rom 8:16,17)
 - e. As an ambassador (2Cor 5:20)
 - f. As a servant of others, no longer of self (1Peter 4:2)
 - g. As a minister, with the gifts that God has gifted us with
 - 2. We have an absolute Pattern in Jesus Christ (you have no right to live any other way). There are six Christian graces that are necessary if the *"unity of the Spirit"* is to be preserved.
 - a. All lowliness complete humility (Acts 20:19) act lower than others, not worse off, or more pitiful, but just not arrogant and full of pride like we usually are!
 - b. Meekness
 - 1) How you receive injuries how you take it personally, or prayerfully
 - 2) We are to bear them patiently, and not to retaliate, or seek revenge.
 - 3) Meekness is not weakness. It is power under control. Moses was called a "meek man" (Num 12:3), yet he was a powerful man. Jesus was "meek and lowly" yet He drove the money changers from the temple. A well trained horse is considered a meek animal. Who can imagine such a powerful animal under the control of a weak human being?
 - 4) The meaning here is, that; we adorn the gospel when we show its power in enabling us to bear injuries without anger or a desire of revenge, but with a mild and forgiving spirit;
 - 5) See 2Co_10:1; Gal_5:23; Gal_6:1; 2Ti_2:25; Tit_3:2
 - c. Longsuffering
 - 1) Heavy emphasis on the "LONG"
 - 2) Relates to the patience of putting up with others, especially Christians!
 - 3) This means "long-tempered" or the ability to endure discomfort without fighting back.
 - 4) Everybody is different, and how long you put up with them is the key! Put up with people LONG!

- 5) That is the only way that others will grow not by harsh expectations only!
- A husband and wife can usually find enough in each other to make them bitter, if they choose to 6) magnify the imperfections in each other, and to become irritated at the smallest things; and there is no friendship that may not be marred in this way, if we will allow it. Hence, if we would have life move on smoothly, we must learn to bear and forbear.
- d. Forbearing
 - 1) Holding each other up (Rom 15:1)
 - 2) Picking people up who have fallen (Gal 6:2)
 - 3) Putting up with them as they go up[and down and up and down!
 - 4) Just like others have had to put up with YOU!!!!
 - 5) Praying for them most of all without bitterness!
- e. In Love
 - 1) This is the reason for everything we do now
 - 2) Before it was for selfish gain "What's in it for me?"
 - 3) Now, it is out of love!
 - 4) Never ceasing to love people, the ministry, the goals and purpose of my Christian life, and NEVER CEASING to love my Saviour!
 - 5) Start with humility, and you will end up with LOVE! Amen!
- f. Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
 - 1) There is a lot of effort in doing all the above
 - 2) But WHAT A CHURCH THAT WOULD BE if we all put out the effort!
 - 3) To endeavour is to work hard at, to intensely labour at all the above!
 - 4) It is a drive to do whatever is necessary, aside from sinning, "to keep the unity of the Spirit" that we have as a church!
 - 5) By the unity of the Spirit we are to understand, not only a spiritual unity, but also a unity of emotions, desires, and affections, such as is worthy of and springs from the Spirit of God.
 - By the bond of peace God is here talking about a union, a bound group of people who are at peace 6) with one another, not because they are FORCED TO BE, but love to be. It is where the interests of all people are focused, anchored, and sealed; the Spirit of God being the seal upon this knot.
 - 7) Read James 3:13 4:10. The reason there is war on the outside is that there is war on the inside. If a believer cannot get along with God, he will not get along with other believers. It is natural that when there is the peace of God in our hearts, there will be unity with others (Col 3:15).
 - The Holy Spirit works to bring us together, it is up to us whether we stay together!!!!!!!!!
- 3. Paul beseeches, begs believers to stay this way to work hard at protecting what Jesus died to obtain! Don't let that prayer by Paul be in vain!
 - As Christians, all of this is top priority! a.
 - b. How can we be any good to this lost generation, if we are not any good to each other!
 - We are TOO wrapped up in our own needs and feelings, and frustrations let them go! C.
 - d. Walk worthy of the calling that we have live like it is the most important thing you do every day!

B. Walk Together (Eph 4:3-6)

- 1. Stay under Authority or else you are going to backslide, or worse, go AWOL
 - a. The word of God (Act 20:32)
 - b. Illuminated by the Spirit of God taught, directed
- Stay Unified (Psalm 133:1) stay in place in God's family (1Chron 12:38) 2.
 - a. There is something called political unity a farce usually forced upon peopleb. There is economic unity communism

 - This is a spiritual unity C.
 - 1) The Holy Spirit in charge
 - 2) Bound by peace, not fear, or force
- 3. Seven Unities that unite us as Christians (Eph 4:4-6):
 - a. **One Body** (Rom 12:5; Eph 1:22,23)
 - 1) Referring to Christ's Church (Matthew 16:18)
 - 2) Expressed as loads of LOCAL churches
 - 3) All to be basically the same, attempting to match the example in the New Testament
 - a) The catholic church matches OT priesthood, with a lot of pagan traditions
 - The protestant church was an attempt to return to the Biblical pattern, but they came only halfb) way

- c) Cults have picked and chosen obscure passages to build their own church
- 4) The "body" is a great picture for every believer to be what God saved you to be as part of a body in your local area eyes, ears, mouths, hands, feet, noses, etc.
- 5) There are no such things are black church, or white only churches, or Spanish only, or female churches, etc. Not a Jewish church, and then a gentile church or an Irish church or an American church (Rom 3:29; 1Cor 12:13; Gal 3:28)
- 6) There is only one church that matters Christ's church
- 7) Anything else is a cult!
- b. One Holy Spirit (Eph 2:18)
 - 1) God is a Unity a Tri-Unity (Matthew 28:19)!
 - a) All three parts are part of the whole and are equal as God, and are actually indivisible
 - b) Yet, there are three distinct Beings that are all One God (1John 5:7)
 - (i) The Father
 - (ii) The Word which became flesh
 - (iii) The Spirit
 - c) The Spirit has been the most abused Person of the trinity He is in the background (Gen 1:1,2), and yet everyone wants to really emphasise Him but don't do it if God doesn't!
 - d) Jesus teaches us to pray specifically to the Father, in Jesus' name, by the power of the Holy Spirit to pray TO the Spirit would be the same as praying to the phone before talking to the person you are dialling
 - 2) There are so many "modern" differences on how to act under the influence of the "Spirit"
 - a) Some churches (like the Roman Catholic Church) believe the Holy Spirit does nothing in the life of a person. Everything is just mysterious, but totally invisible
 - b) Other churches make too much of the Spirit
 - c) This gross misunderstanding has brought about the charismatic movement that has pumped up people all across the globe with a prosperity kind of Gospel instead of a persevering kind of a Gospel!
 - d) Unbelievable acts like Barking, Hissing, convulsions, writhing and slithering along the floor!
 - e) Uncontrollable Laughter
 - (i) By the Spring of 1993 Howard-Browne was attracting large crowds of people including individuals from Africa, Argentina, and Great Britain who were drawn to his meetings because of the unusual phenomenon of laughter taking place. Charisma magazine revealed: "No matter what Howard-Browne did or said, hundreds who attended the daily sessions always ended up on the sanctuary floor in helpless laughter. When the services were broadcast on the radio, more curious seekers showed up to join the fun."
 - (ii) This laughter can break out during a communion service or even when serious sermons are preached. Rodney Howard-Browne reported: "One night I was preaching on hell, and laughter just hit the whole place. The more I told the people what hell was like, the more they laughed." "The Holy Ghost...might have you do something that no one's ever done before, and he might have you do something that's totally unique. But don't question, and don't argue, and don't ask, and don't try to devise and to plan it out but just follow the prompting of the leading of the Spirit of God and, oh, great and wonderful things shall be done, for God will move in diverse ways and with diverse anointings in these last days."
 - f) Unreprovable adherents
 - 3) How can this be? Because there are many false spirit's (2Cor 11:4)
 - 4) Here is a fundamental truth our human nature will follow a false spirit easier than we will follow the Holy Spirit! We will love a false prophet more than a true prophet. We will believe a lie before we will believe the truth!!!!!
 - 5) The Apostle John instructs us "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1John 4:1). The Holy Spirit is real and powerful, but so are false imitations/counterfeits. We must be alert we must let no man deceive us. We must discern where true spirituality ends and deceitful emotionalism begins.
 - 6) The "charismatic movement", also known as the "tongues movement", is on the increase across almost all religions. It unites Protestant and Catholic and indeed non-Christian faiths (i.e., Mormons even). Is it always a unifying thrust of the Holy Spirit? What does the Bible say?
 - 7) Christianity is fragmented. Literally hundreds of denominations professing the name of Jesus Christ make up the world's near two billion Christians. Surely anything that unifies them must be good, and from God?
- New Spiritual Buzz-Words

- The new spiritual buzz-words are "unity and love *in the Spirit*". In other words emotion and 1) experience. But the test God asks for is not whether we are unified, and not based on numerical growth or superiority. The true test is whether a movement matches the Word of God!
- A Universal Faith? (Rev 13:11-18) 2)
 - The Bible prophesies that at the end time there will be one great all-conquering universal a) religion marching under the banner of the name of the Christ (the Messiah, but not Jesus remember the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost?). But it won't be the religion Jesus founded! The end-time universal church will have swallowed-whole the "oneness" doctrine - unity at any price.
 - What is the "glue" that could bond together the current variety of belief? According to b) proponents, it's the gifts of the Spirit - charismata. And foremost of these is the gift of "tongues" - a practice shared with non-Christian religions, even animists!
- 3) Personal experience and emotionalism instead of truth as presented in the Bible
 - Music Beyond all that, it is emotionalism, caused by the music. Mr. LINDELL COOLEY a) (Director of Music at Brownsville Assembly of God): "They're walking in from different attitudes, different religious experiences, some without any religious experiences. And the music is kind of the -- it's really kind of a -- it's a bridge. It brings people from this point to this point."
 - h) Controlled miracles – constantly being exposed for not allowing hard cases onto the platforms
 - c) Lack of Biblical teaching just restricted to key Scriptures, not the whole Bible!
 - d) No testing allowed! Can't question, or test the spirits or the prophets!
- 4) How to test the Spirit and you are supposed to!
 - a) By the authority of the clear instructions of the word of God (Eph 6:17) the Holy Spirit ONLY operates within the framework of the Bible – no barking, or slithering, or hissing! A simple desire to obev what is written!
 - b) By being under control, not out of control Are people under control, or out of control (1Cor 14:32)
 - c) By actual freedom from sin Is there bondage to drink, or bitterness, or hatred, or freedom and victory (2Cor 3:17) – not to do what you please, but to be able to obey and live right and clean and fully! Victory only comes by submitting to God's "still, small voice" (1Kings 19:12)
- 5) The work of God's Holy Spirit
 - To convict us of sin (John 16.7.8) constantly drawing our attention to areas that need work a)
 - To convert us from self to change us (2Cor 3:17,18) to be like Jesus conforming b)
 - To comfort us when hurting (John 14:26) c)
 - To control our hearts and minds under stress (John 14:26) d)
 - To coach us on how to live and defeat our enemy (John 16:13) by "the Book"! e)
 - f) To contribute all the power and help you need to do what God asks you to do (Luke 4:18,19)
- 6) What could happen in a person's life if he were absolutely filled with God's holy Spirit?
- **One Hope of our calling** (Eph 4:4) one real goal in your life! d
 - 1) We have a calling -a vocation (See Eph 4:1) one calling
 - Even though I am called to preach, and pastor and start churches, that is not my real calling a)
 - Someone may have a calling to be a doctor, or a mechanic, or a housewife, but that is not their b) true calling!
 - My real calling is to honour God in all that I do (1Cor 10:31) that is the purpose of all nations c) (Psalm 86:9) - do what pleases Him, and makes HIM look good in people's eyes!
 - d) And I hope to do that all my life I plan on it, and I am confident that I can do it with God's help!
 - 2) We have HOPE! Something that we confidently look forward to!
 - a) The world has NO HOPE (Eph 2:12) nothing certain!
 - b) Hope in Scripture is not the wishful thinking we sometimes mean by hope, but rather a firm expectation based on the character, power, and faithfulness of God (Titus 1:2).
 - c) It is not the beginning, but the fulfilment of what God has been doing in our lives – making us more confident, more hopeful (Rom 5:1-5)!
 - It is an exciting hope (Rom 12:12), and lively hope (1Peter 1:3) d)
 - Christians have the same hope, and they should therefore be one. They are looking forward to e) the same heaven; they hope for the same happiness beyond the grave.



- f) It is not as on earth among the people of the world, where, there is a variety of hopes where one hopes for pleasure, and another for honour, and another for gain; but there is the prospect of the same inexhaustible joy. This "hope" is supposed to promote union. There is no rivalry for there is enough for all.
- g) It comes from this Bible (Rom 15:4)
- h) We are supposed to have LOADS of hope (Rom 15:13)
- i) Jesus is our hope (1Tim 1:1)
- j) And His soon return is very encouraging (Titus 2:13)
- 3) Now again, my real calling is to honour God in all that I do (1Cor 10:31)
- 4) Don't blow your true calling (Col 1:23) by losing hope! Get deeply into this Bible and stay full of hope!
- e. **One Lord** (Acts 2:36; Rom 14:9; 1Cor 8:6)
 - 1) He is THE Lord Jesus (Philp 2:10,11)! Christ, the head of the church, to whom, by God's appointment, all Christians are immediately subject.
 - a) The Holy Spirit is not Lord
 - b) God the Father even is not the one that directly controls your life
 - c) But here we have the Lord Jesus! What a name! What a title!
 - d) He is more than just a leader, but a BOSS a Captain, a Director!
 - e) Yep! The One the people crucified and nailed to a cruel cross He is Lord!
 - 2) And, Jesus' authority is equal to the Father's (John 5:23) no conflict (Philp 2:6)
 - a) God the Father is LORD Jehovah
 - b) David writes about one Lord being subjected unto another LORD (Psalm 110:1; Mt 22:42-46)
 - c) That is the Son subjected unto the Father
 - 3) The Bible principle is this: You have ONE person in charge of determining your steps that you should walk in (Ps 37:23) not your parents, your wife, or your husband, or your boss, or your friends or your enemies!
 - 4) There is no room for ANY other "Lord":
 - a) Mohammed
 - b) Moses
 - c) Mahatma Ghandi
 - d) Rupert Murdoch
 - e) Krishna
 - f) Money
 - g) Buddha
 - h) Momma
 - i) Rock music
 - j) Or your wife, or your husband, or your kids, or your parents (Matthew 10:37)!
 - k) Or especially YOUSELF (Gal 2:20)
 - 1) There can be NO other competitor for the throne of your life!
 - m) Jesus is Lord!
 - 5) Jesus is Lord yes, but the key is to make Him YOUR Lord (Philp 3:8)
 - a) Matthew 13:51
 - b) Luke 23:42
 - c) Matthew 20:30
 - d) Mark 9:24
 - e) Mark 10:51
 - f) Key about these verses is that they ALL have the word LORD missing in them in the newer translations! Don't let it be missing in your life!
 - g) You should simply pray thusly, "Lord Jesus...'
 - h) Listen to *how submitted* we are to be to Him as Lord (Eph 5:22-24)
 - (i) As Jesus was submitted to God the Father
 - (ii) As a wife is to be to her husband
 - (iii) As children are to be to their parents
 - (iv) As all of creation is to God except man!
 - 6) Well, if He IS Lord, then get busy doing what He says to do (Luke 6:46)!!!
 - a) Ye must be born again!
 - b) Love the brethren
 - c) Humble yourselves under your authorities
 - d) Forgive

- e) Put away all sin daily
- f) Take up your cross daily
- f. One Faith (Jude 1:3)
 - 1) All believers are supposed to believe basically the same thing. Is that too much to ask?
 - a) It means that Christians should be united because they hold the same great doctrines; and also, because they have the same confidence in the Saviour in their hearts, They hold the same system of belief as distinguished from Judaism, Paganism, Mohammedanism, Deism, etc.; and they should, therefore, be one.
 - b) They have the same trust in Christ, as a living, practical life to look to and follow and they should, therefore, be one.
 - 2) There may be different stages of our own personal learning spiritual growth!
 - a) At first we believe in milk truths easy to understand and grasp
 - b) Then we move on to more meaty subjects
 - c) THEN we take on the deep things of God
 - d) Don't settle for being a carnal, milk-based diet only (1Cor 3)
 - 3) Principles of strong faith:
 - (i) One source for our faith We had better stay limited to just what this Book says (John 5:39)
 - (a) Not what you feel, or what you want it to mean
 - (b) Not a progressively revealed truth to "the church"
 - (ii) Simple tests for our faith does it match the rest of the Bible?
 - (iii) Humility about our faith we can be wrong about some things
 - (iv) Allow for small adjustments to our faith
 - 4) Our faith has been given to us to believe. It is the faith of Jesus that is settled (Gal 2:16) not the faith of the catholic church, or the Baptist church, or the Mormon church
 - a) People believe all sorts of things
 - b) We better get back to some seriously strong things to believe, and test what we believe and believe it!
 - c) Our unity is based on strong beliefs that are derived from this one Book
 - d) Just like a nation is unified by its constitution not by its tolerances, or diversities, etc
 - 5) Any other faith or belief is a lie!
 - a) A Catholic faith derived by the Bible AND traditions (135 volumes and growing)
 - b) A Protestant faith decided by the Bible and traditions
 - c) Channelling (demonic)
 - d) Belief in angels (demons)
 - e) Belief in yourself
 - f) Belief in charms, good/bad luck, the movement of stars and planets
 - g) Belief in the Big Bang
 - 6) "The faith" is
 - a) "the faith which was once delivered" (Jude 3)
 - b) "the law of faith" (Rom. 3:27)
 - c) "the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2)
 - d) "the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 1:16)
 - e) "the doctrine of Christ" (2 John 9)
 - f) and "the new testament" (Heb. 9:15)
 - 7) Our faith is found in a perfect Book (1Cor 13:10)
 - 8) Aren't you glad for just ONE Book?
 - 9) The "faith" is not elusive; we have it it is also available to all.
 - 10) It is high time to quit trying to decide what to believe and instead...
 - a) Be obedient to the faith (Rom. 1:5; 16:26)
 - b) Reject wrestled interpretations (2 Pet. 1:20; 3:16). Stay as simple as possible
 - c) Accept only "the doctrine of Christ" (2 John 9-11) anything that attempts to supersede Christ is out of bounds!
 - d) Refuse any modified Gospels (Gal. 1:6-9).
 - e) Examine the prophets people claiming to speak for God (1 John 4:1) including Mohammed, Joseph Smith, etc!
 - f) Reject union or fellowship with those who will not subscribe to "the unity of the faith." Anyone that is not Bible only is unsafe!
 - g) Rejoice, we do have "the unity of the faith."

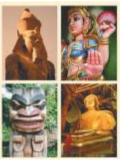
- g. **One Baptism** (1Cor 12:13)
 - 1) Ok, so here we are going to get a little meat out of the Bible tonight! Some complicated stuff... but some good stuff for you to grow on!
 - 2) The doctrine of baptisms (Heb 6:1,2)
 - a) There is only ONE important baptism salvation we will see this
 - b) But there are actually SEVEN baptisms described in the Bible
 - 3) Definition.
 - a) Baptism by definition means the placement of something into something else, and then pulling it back out again, as in immersion, or dunking
 - b) Whenever there is a baptism, there is the death of something! Something is supposed to die, and something is supposed to live! So there are three things that go with baptism:
 - (i) Something dies
 - (ii) Something changes
 - (iii) Something lives
 - c) A fundamental doctrine that a Christian must hold to it can't just be any kind of Baptism that you accept to be true like:
 - (i) Sprinkling
 - (ii) Infant baptism
 - (iii) Sacramental dipping
 - (iv) Holy Spirit baptisms speaking in tongues, etc
 - 4) There is only ONE Baptism that matters (Eph 4:5) getting INTO Christ by faith alone!
 - 5) And yet there are seven Baptisms. Learn these, and you learn a lot of Bible! Be glad for the exhortation to rightly divide the word!
 - a) Baptism in the Old Testament
 - b) Baptism into Repentance John's Baptism
 - c) Baptism Into Christ
 - d) Baptism Into Water
 - e) Baptism Into Fire
 - f) Baptism Into Suffering
 - g) Transitional Baptism
 - 6) The Seven Baptisms in Detail

a) Baptism in the Old Testament - Old Testament Ceremonial Washings

- (i) Taking unclean things and people and cleansing them ceremonially
- (ii) Necessary under the Old Testament (Mark 7:1-4; Heb 9:10)
 - (a) Shown by Namaan the Leper
 - (b) The priests in the Temple washing their bodies in large tubs
 - (c) Washing of the animal sacrifices before burning their flesh
 - (d) Washing of Temple items
 - (e) They were ALL a shadow of things to come
- (iii) Baptism into Righteousness a constant baptism for only the priests
- (iv) They are all INVALID under the New Testament!
- (v) Yet the Roman Catholic Church retains all the ceremonies that they liked and made them part of our approach to God today!
- b) <u>Baptism into Repentance John's Jewish Baptism</u> (Mt 3:6) A Water Baptism "unto repentance"
 - (i) The Jews were commanded to get baptized BEFORE Jesus was accepted by the Jews as Messiah
 - (ii) It prepared them for their Messiah
 - (iii) It was NOT a believer's baptism only for Jews, and only before the presentation of Jesus as the Jewish Messiah
 - (iv) They Jews needed to repent of their religion, and their past, and be ready for their Messiah
 - (v) Jesus was Baptized with John's Baptism and John didn't think Jesus needed it (Mt 3:13-15)! But is was a must for Jesus to show that He was JEWISH and part of the nation – not an outsider!
- c) <u>Baptism into Jesus Christ Baptism of the Spirit</u> (1Cor 12:13) The process of being Born Again – this is THE one Baptism to make sure you have!
 - (i) I WAS "in sin" and in bondage to the power of sin (Eph 2:1)

- (ii) But once redeemed by the blood of Christ, I have been instantaneously placed INTO Jesus Christ! I am now bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh!
- (iii) It was done by the Holy Spirit!
- (iv) It can NEVER be undone (John 10:27-29)
- (v) Jesus calls it "you in me, and I in you, etc" in John 17
- (vi) That moment, I got the Holy Spirit IN me, and the Holy Spirit put ME into the Saviour the Ark of God! And I'm SAFE for evermore!
- (vii)I died the moment I got born again, and came out a CHANGED man!
- d) Baptism into Water The Believer's Baptism (Mt 28:19,20) Water Baptism
 - (i) A testimony and picture to this world of the change that took place in the heart of the believer at the time of salvation! It is only a ceremony of obedience.
 - (ii) Water baptism is clearly a FIGURE or TYPE of something which already took place in the heart of the believer the moment he/she was saved (1 Pet. 3:21). Water baptism is the ordinance representing the identification of the Christian with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - (iii) Pictures the death, burial, and the resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:1-9)
 - (iv) Sprinkling and dipping doesn't adequately picture that at all!
 - (v) This water baptism *identifies* or *associates* the believer no longer with the old life of sin, <u>but with Jesus Christ</u> and His death, burial, and resurrection. It is in the same way that a uniform associates a worker with the company they work for!
 - (a) I went into the water in people's minds the old me
 - (b) But from the moment I gave my testimony, their view of me should have changed
 - (c) Now I am living DIFFERENTLY! Not the same!
 - (vi) Water baptism presents a public testimony to the world that one has accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and that they are willing to live a different life now for the Lord Jesus (Acts 2:41; Romans 10:11)!
 - (a) Acts 2:41 "...they that gladly received his word were baptized..."
 - (b) Acts 8:12 "...when they believed... they were baptized..."
 - (c) Acts 8:36-37. Ethiopian eunuch. "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God...and he (Philip) baptized him."
 - (d) Acts 9:18. Paul's baptism. "...and he received sight...and was baptized."
 - (e) Acts 10:47-48. Cornelius' household. "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized?
 - (f) Acts 16:14-15. Lydia's baptism. "...whose heart the Lord opened...she was baptized..."
 - (g) Acts 16:33. Philippian jailer. "...they spake unto him the word of the Lord...and...he...was baptized..."
 - (h) Acts 18:8. Crispus and company. "And Crispus...believed...and many...were baptized."
 - (i) Acts 19:5. Disciples at Ephesus. "...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus..."
 - (vii)So, when immersed into water in baptism, does this "wash away our sins?" (see Ephesians 2:8,9; Galatians 3:11) What saves the sinner then? (see also Ephesians 1:7; 1John 1:7; Colossians 1:20) Only the blood of Christ can wash away our sins!
 - (viii) The apostle Paul's whole focus in life was the preaching of the Gospel not in baptizing (1 Cor 1:13-18)! Not to say water baptism is not important, but that it was secondary to salvation - not part of salvation!
 - (ix) When the Jews crossed the Red Sea in Exodus 14:21-31), it was an Old Testament Picture of New Testament Baptism (1Cor 10:2). The Jews had believed the blood would save them, and now had been baptized!
 - (x) Every believer should be baptized!
- e) **Baptism into Fire** (Mt 3:11,12) Hell Fire
 - (i) Every unsaved person is ultimately BAPTIZED into Hellfire (note verse 12!) if they reject Jesus and try and get into God's presence on their own merits (Rev 21:8; Matt 25:41)!
 - (ii) Charismatics think this baptism is what they are experiencing when they get the gift of tongues, and that it is what the Apostles experienced on the day of Pentecost!
 - (iii) People who go into this baptism, die for all eternity!
 - (iv) NO ONE should want this "baptism!"
- f) **Baptism into Suffering Death** (Mt 20:22)
 - (i) Jesus Christ's Death, Burial and Resurrection is called *His Baptism*.
 - (ii) It also can refer to our death FOR the Lord under persecution!
 - (iii) For believers, death is a baptism, because our bodies WILL be resurrected!

- (iv) The principle is our troubles should be allowed to change us, soften us, mould us! Your pride will have to die before that change can take place! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we didn't fear what our Lord has ahead for us?!
- g) Transitional Baptism (Acts 2:38)
 - (i) This was a believer's baptism, but for the early New Testament Jews only for them to receive the Holy Ghost. You and I got Him the moment we believed!
 - (ii) This baptism was not preached to anyone else besides those Jews who had been baptized by John the Baptist, and then had sought the crucifixion of their Messiah!
 - (iii) After their conversion, they were re-baptized none of us are like this! Not for the Holy Ghost, or for anything, except out of obedience!
- 7) What's the point of all these different Baptisms?
 - a) First to show that we ARE unclean before God in need of cleansing and not always by water
 - b) That our approach to God is on HIS terms first through ceremonies, washings, priests, temple, sacrifices... and then later through Jesus Christ, in absolute obedience to His word!
 - c) That Baptism always shows the DEATH of something or someone so that a new person could take over!
 - d) That no Baptism except Spiritual Baptism does anything for your soul!
- 8) Three Final Questions:
 - a) Have you been Scripturally Baptized by the Holy Spirit? Born Again?
 - b) Have you then, AFTER getting born again, have you been Scripturally baptized in water, publicly testifying of your faith in Christ?
 - c) Is your testimony still clear?
- h. One God (Eph 4:6)
 - 1) The verse declares five truths:
 - a) There is one God
 - b) He is the father of all
 - c) He is above all,
 - d) He is through all,
 - e) He is in you all
 - f) We may say we believe that, but do we live like it?
 - (i) Do we really live like HE is in control, and working all things together for our good, and for his glory?
 - (ii) Is He our ONLY God, or do we allow ANYTHING to become more important than God (idolatry), or more loved, or more concerned and anxious about than HIM!?
 - 2) There is but ONE God only one (Isa 44:6,8; 42:8; 43:10,11; 45:6)!
 - a) Monotheism
 - b) Pantheism Hinduism
 - c) Paganism Spiritism
 - d) Buddhism
 - e) Materialism
 - f) Oh that people knew the one true God, and His Son Jesus Christ (John 17:3)!
 - g) The Wrong God False gods?
 - (i) Allah
 - (ii) Mammon Money
 - (iii) Religion
 - (iv) Self
 - 3) He is the Father! God is Father not just absolute being!
 - a) Creator
 - b) Carer as a father pities His children
 - c) Responsible
 - 4) He is Father of everything
 - a) As creator
 - b) The head of the family of God oops, be careful, so is Jesus (Col 1:18)
 - c) He is the Father of every believer, no matter their colour, race, sex, handicap
 - d) Abused by making Him Father no matter religion, or sexual preference! Sorry!
 - 5) Our "Abba" (Mark 14:36)



- 6) He is ABOVE all He rules! He is above every king, emperor, dictator, boss, enemy even Satan
- 7) He is THROUGH all He permeates throughout all of nature not nature itself there is no place He is not there!
- 8) And IN you all! He is IN the believer what a thought!
 - a) Not until the new birth
 - b) He is IN you
 - c) You are His temple (Eph 2:22; John 14:23)!
- 9) How do we therefore live (Acts 17:22-27)?
 - a) Ignorant of His presence?
 - b) Resisting His opinion and will?
 - c) Or rather, according to His rules
 - d) Submitted to His work
 - e) Saved by His grace (Isa 45:22)
 - f) And Walking with Him in intimate terms
- 4. Conclusion Paul is beseeching us.
 - a. To stay worthy of our calling to honour the Lord with our life instead of dishonour Him
 - b. To stay unified as a church
 - c. There is more to come
 - 1) We need to walk Gifted
 - 2) And walk differently on purpose!

C. Walk Gifted (Eph 4:7-16)

- 1. **God's Gifts to the Church** (vs 7-11).
 - a. Paul moves from what Christians have in common to how Christians differ from each other. It's a good thing that we have differences by ourselves we are incomplete together, we are awesome!
 - b. These different abilities to do different things, when banded together in a church, gives the church a mighty force.
 - c. The gifts are developed by fellowshipping with other Christians in the church. They are not toys or weapons to use against each other as the Corinthians used in 1Cor 12 14. They are not for showing off, or hiding. They are for strength and power to live holy and godly, serving the Lord!

2. We are Gifted by Grace, not By Abilities (4:7)

- a. Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
- b. We need God's Grace
 - 1) His giving attitude
 - 2) His gracious influences in our lives
 - 3) His way of working
 - 4) The opposite of God's grace is God's law
 - a) God's law is His requirements of us to be holy based totally on OUR abilities
 - b) God's grace is His enablement for us to be holy (James 4:6), not just His "leniency"
- c. It is Given to Every Believer
 - 1) As a Gift unearned (Eph 2:8,9)
 - 2) It is given in measure not unlimited, but just enough
 - 3) Christ determines how much you need to do what he has saved you to do whatever that is
 - 4) They key is that Jesus has enough grace to do whatever you are facing.

3. The Awesome Power of Christ (4:8-10)

- a. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)
- b. We all know that Jesus is very much alive and in heaven, seated at the right hand of God
- c. But Paul here is explaining something amazing about the power of Jesus Christ
 - 1) When Jesus went up, He took some people with Him captives who were they and where did they come from?
 - 2) When Jesus died, His body went into the tomb, His soul went down into the lower parts of the earth
 - 3) Hell used to be split into two sections
 - 4) One side was hell, one side was paradise (Luke 23:42,43)
 - 5) Jesus went to the paradise section, where Abraham, and all Old Testament believers were waiting
 - a) Before the cross, no one could go directly to heaven (Heb 10:4; John 14:6)
 - b) There was a large gulf/gap between the two sides
 - c) They could see each other and hear each other (Luke 16:22-26)
 - 6) He was there for 3 days and 3 nights with them (1Peter 3:18,19)
 - 7) Then He arose with the Old Testament saints (Mt 27:50-53)
 - 8) Later that day, He took all of them to heaven with Him
- d. Conquered death, the power of the grave, and the bars of hell!!! He can help you too!

4. The Gifts of Grace (4:11)

- a. Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- b. The gifts that Christ gave were not riches, or honour, or lands, but gifts of people to the body of believers. These are God's gifts to a church:
 - 1) Apostles twelve specially empowered men who laid the foundation of the church
 - a) Special chosen men who were empowered to do the impossible start churches throughout the world in just one generation
 - b) They taught the doctrines of the New testament before the New testament was even written
 - c) They were responsible for writing and overseeing the writing of the New Testament
 - d) They gave their lives for Christ's glory
 - 2) Prophets specially empowered men who would write the New Testament
 - a) Agabus was one such prophet
 - b) These also were used by God to write portions of the New Testament (i.e. John mark, Luke,

etc).

- 3) **Evangelists** missionaries/evangelisers of an area that plant a church, train pastors and teachers, and then go on to another area to start more churches
 - a) Titus started churches throughout the island of Crete
 - b) Philip started churches in Samaria
 - c) The Ethiopian eunuch started churches throughout Ethiopia
- 4) **Pastors** shepherds, bishops who stay and stay and stay in one church feeding the flock, and raising families for God, and sending out more evangelists/missionaries
 - a) Timothy was pastor of the church at Ephesus
 - b) Apollos pastored the church at Corinth
- 5) **Teachers** men for older people, and women for younger people, who so willingly give their lives and time helping a pastor train the people of a church in the truths of the word of God
- c. Two of those offices are finished and done with, and three are still in force (Eph 2:19-22)
 - 1) Apostles and prophets laid the foundation for the church
 - 2) Evangelists still go out and start churches
 - 3) Pastors still pastor
 - 4) Teachers still teach!
- d. How should they be treated?
 - 1) Treasure these gifted men
 - 2) Help these people
 - 3) Thank God for them go up to the teachers, the choir, the musicians and that them!
 - 4) And obey them when they have authority (Heb 13:7,17; 1Thes 5:12,13; 2Thes 3:14)
 - 5) And even pay them (1Tim 5:17) as a church, we are looking at taking on paid staff who are giving so much of their time for the ministry! And it is a right thing to do!

5. The Purpose of God's Gifts (4:12-16)

a. "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

b. To Perfect the Christians

- 1) <u>To Perfect the Saints</u>
 - a) Notice the "saints" are here, not just in heaven and need to be perfected
 - b) To perfect means to make just right, to mature, to iron out the wrinkles (Eph 5:27) make us just like Jesus Christ (1Cor 1:10; Philp 2:5)!
 - c) Lots of work needed on all of us
 - d) What "spots" or "wrinkles" do Christians have?
 - (i) Bad attitudes
 - (ii) Wrong loves
 - (iii) Bad habits
 - (iv) Evil thoughts
 - (v) Fill in the blank
 - e) What would we be like if our attitudes, affections, habits, and thoughts were right?
 - f) How hard should your pastor work on you? As hard as necessary!
 - g) How hard are you willing for life to get to change you and perfect you?
 - h) Like a sander on a piece of wood different degrees of roughness based on the roughness of the wood
- 2) So that they can do the Work of the Ministry (vs 12b).
 - a) Just WHAT is the work of the ministry?
 - (i) Pastoring a church
 - (ii) Preaching
 - (iii) Taking care of the sick, the fatherless and the widows
 - (iv) Soul-winning the lost
 - (v) Teaching the whole word of God
 - (vi) Training men to be godly husbands, and godly dads
 - (vii) Teaching women to be godly wives and mothers
 - (viii) Teaching children to obey and honour their parents
 - (ix) Conducting Bible Clubs, and Men's Retreats and Revivals
 - (x) Turning our world upside down

- (xi) Praying for people's burdens helping carry those burdens
- b) The pastor, and elders should not be the only ones doing those things for God
- c) My job is to coach ALL of you into your best "playing positions" to serve the Lord as a team!
- d) Coaches don't play on the field they already have played on the field have loads of experience not a novice! Some of you try and preach, or try and get advice, and you know nothing you better watch and learn! Then you follow orders, and only when you have the respect of the whole team.
- e) Coaches don't do everything they work very hard helping the players win
- f) Pastors are NOT supposed to do just about everything
- g) They are supposed to enable all of you to do something great for God!
 - (i) What are YOU doing in the body? (1Cor 12:27, 12; Rom 12:5)
 - (ii) Are you "pulling your weight?" Are just dead flesh, barely hanging on?
 - (iii) Do you know what doctors do to dead flesh? Cut it off!
 - (iv) God prunes His vine from time to time that happens here too! Some people are far too proud thinking it is THEM that comes and goes as they please, when it is GOD that is holding them back from God's blessing!!!
- 3) So that everyone in a church is edified (blessed)!
 - a) Do you bless anyone in this church, other than yourself?
 - b) Do you come on a Sunday to bless, or are you still just a baby seeking to fill your belly and and your nappie?
 - c) How do you edify a church? How do you build it strong and solid?
 - (i) By being here! No good me working on activities and outreaches, and messages, and people not being here!
 - (ii) By caring about people really loving them and going out of your way to help them
 - (iii) By praying for them
 - (iv) By saying things that encourage them not gossiping, attacking, probing, insinuating
 - (v) By listening, instead of always talking
 - (vi) By growing there is nothing more discouraging than having people in a church that are STUCK! There is nothing more exciting than having a church full of brand new baby Christians, and growing believers!

4) How long do we work at this? Until We Are ALL Like Christ!

- c. To Produce Maturity (Vs 15,16)
 - "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: "
 - 2) Starts with absolute truth!
 - a) Speaking it teaching it repeating it
 - b) People so easily fall for every wind of doctrine they love CHANGE
 - c) The maturing Christian is not tossed about by every religious notion that comes along. The cults do not try to win the lost souls to Christ. They capture immature Christians and indoctrinate them against what they have learned from the Bible. Note Galatians 1:8,9.
 - d) Such a sad commentary on modern immaturity how that most people are easily swayed from the truth by cunning gimmicks!
 - (i) Sleight of men a cleverly executed trick or deception
 - (ii) Cunning craftiness like a used car dealer! Never telling the whole story
 - (iii) Cults, false religions never say what they really believe
 - (iv) Eminem never tells you what he really thinks of the people who listen to his music
 - (v) If you listen to that rubbish, you are a zombie God help you!
 - 3) You mature people through three things in their life:
 - a) Truth
 - b) Tough Love
 - c) Tight Cooperation everyone allowing the truth with love to work IN THEM!
 - (i) Truth and Love are Important to growing (vs 15). Not just love, or not just truth, but BOTH!
 - (ii) Somebody said, "Truth without love is brutality, but love without truth is hypocrisy." Sometimes the truth can be harsh, but it must always be shared in love. "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." (Prov 27:6).
 - (iii) Through Cooperation (vs 16).
 - d) Isolated, unloved babies do not grow properly and are sickly. Loved babies that are handled,

hugged, talked to, and spent time with grow normally and are stronger and have a better outlook on life.

- e) An isolated Christian cannot minister to others, nor can others minister to him. It takes everybody doing what they are able to do to make the church a body that is *"fitly joined together and compacted"* so that it is *"edifying...itself in love."* If some lay out and are lax in their service, missing church meetings, and being spiritual leeches, the church is weakened and suffers.
- f) Spiritual unity is not something that is manufactured, it is something that we already have in Christ, but it must be protected.
- d. "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."
- e. All a church needs to be blessed is right here!
 - 1) Pastors, teachers
 - 2) People caring, loving, hard-working, giving people
 - 3) A Plan perfect plan for us to work together towards
 - 4) A world that needs reaching we will never run out of things to do and people to reach it will keep us busy until Jesus returns!

- D. Walk Differently (Eph 4:17-32) Live Differently Now That You are a Christian!!!
 - 1. How We Gentiles USED to Walk, talk, live, and just generally did things:
 - a. We had Messed up thinking
 - 1) Vain mind Selfish, self-centred thinking that was worthless spiritually (Druids, celtic spiritualism)
 - 2) Darkened mind dark thinking (against God, and instead worshipping demons)
 - 3) Ignorant mind ignorant of God, and of what was right and good. Sad that wilful ignorance reigns
 - b. We all had Messed up hearts emotional feelings we actually had a blind heart blind to how we were
 - 1) We hated anyone who corrected us
 - 2) We hated being wrong
 - 3) We hated God (even though we put on a show of loving God)
 - 4) We were blind to our own sinfulness, but quick to point out other people's faults
 - c. We were completely unaware of the life of God (John 10:27,28)
 - 1) Thought it was boring, or only religious
 - 2) Didn't know about eternal life
 - d. Way past feeling burned out, numb to spiritual things (1Tim 4:1-3)
 - 1) Didn't start out that way (Rom 1:21) All of us had a sensitivity towards God and towards goodness
 - 2) Sin burned that out, and so did religion
 - 3) If your feelings are burned out and numb, then you allowed the devil to hurt you, and you had better start letting GOD repair your heart (Ps 73:26; 27:14)
 - e. We were ALL ADDICTED (given over to) to lasciviousness lewdness: showing a desire for, or unseemly interest in sex the sins of today are NOT new!
 - 1) Fornication, pornography, filthy stories are ALL addictive
 - 2) Drink is FOR sex FIRST, and for sorrows LAST (Hab 2:15)
 - f. We were involved in all filthiness (uncleanness), and greedy for more and more of it doing wicked things couldn't get enough of filth
 - 2. Jesus Christ teaches us to live differently (Eph 4:20-21) that's why people HATE Him!
 - a. Everybody needs to listen to His word
 - b. Get taught by Him these words are the Master teaching the students, disciples! Learn these words!
 - c. We are called to be CHRIST-ians, not ROMANS, or AMERICANS!
 - 3. So, FIRST we have to PUT OFF some things (Eph 4:22,25-31)
 - a. To "Put Off" means...
 - 1) To take off as to stop wearing something (so as to be able to pout something else ON)
 - 2) To dethrone not give any authority to to ignore completely
 - 3) To divorce yourself from something in your life that had control
 - 4) To throw off, throw away some things (Ezek 18:30-32)
 - b. We need to dethrone the former way of thinking and talking and living think of them as stupid!
 - c. The old man the old me is ruined, corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, the lies I used to believe
 - 4. What a Christian is commanded to dethrone... (every one of these wrong things have a right replacement)
 - a. Lying instead speak absolute truth to your neighbour (4:25)
 - 1) White lies
 - 2) Partial truths covering secret sins
 - 3) Exaggerations
 - 4) Be honest, and be transparent and God will bless you!
 - b. Anger do not let it get control of you (4:26)
 - 1) Anger is how a person feels when they think they have been wronged
 - 2) It is right to get angry
 - 3) What you do when you are angry is VERY suspect
 - c. Dethrone the devil (4:27) do not give him any place in your thinking!
 - d. Stop stealing (4:28) instead work HARD with your hands to save to give away to people in need. THAT is the way you deal with thieves, you PUT THEM TO WORK meeting needs of others give them some self worth!
 - e. Put off corrupt communication out of your mouth (4:29)
 - 1) Filthy words
 - 2) Curse words

- 3) Flippant words
- 4) Foolish words words that unsaved people say (cf Eph 5:4)
- 5) Hurtful word gossipping
- 6) ONLY salvation can change the words of a mouth (Mt 12:34)
- 7) Instead force out of your mouth GOOD, EDIFYING words like:
 - a) I love you
 - b) You are a blessing to me
 - c) "Go rev mahagut" you have been very good to me
 - d) Thank you!
 - e) You are awesome
 - f) Say things that HELP someone, not hurts them bad!
 - g) See Luke 4:22; Col 4:6
- f. Stop grieving the Holy Spirit (4:30) all of this stuff grieves, upsets GOD in you!
 - 1) The last time God's Spirit was grieved, He wiped out the whole world (Gen 6:3,6)
- g. Put away ALL bitterness when you can't get justice, you get bitter
 - 1) Bitterness is WRONG in ALL circumstances PERIOD! No debate!
 - 2) It only hurts YOU and defiles others
 - 3) It will ruin your life!
 - 4) Vengeance belongs to God
- h. Put away ALL wrath
 - 1) Angry is how you feel
 - 2) Wrath is how you react what you DO when you are angry seeking punishment
 - 3) Funny how God won't let us keep ANY of this stuff in our hearts and lives
- i. Put away ALL anger repeating evidently it is a big problem in Gentile Christianity
- j. Put away ALL clamour loud yelling, screaming
- k. Put away ALL evil speaking saying evil things about other people
- 1. Put away ALL malice evil intentions, what you WISH you could do to someone!
- m. All of the above are WORKS of DARKNESS (Rom 13:12)
- n. And ALL must be PUT AWAY from you great distance between you and them
- 5. Be re-newed in the spirit of your mind (Eph 4:23,24,32)
 - a. The spirit of your mind is the attitude of your thinking
 - b. To "Put ON" means put in charge the NEW MAN (righteousness and true holiness, not fake)
 - 1) Be kind one to another full stop! Are you kind to people, or just tolerate them?
 - 2) Tenderhearted what a word (Ps 145:9)
 - 3) Forgiving one another fully forgiving them! God HATES lying! If you say you forgiven then you better be telling you the truth!!!
 - c. Treat others as Christ has treated YOU WOW! Can you imagine what this world would think if Christians started treating people like Jesus treats us?!
 - 1) He is VERY kind to you
 - 2) He is very tender towards you
 - 3) He constantly is taken advantage of, and yet forgives you!
- III. Conclusion and Review

Ephesians Chapter Four Quiz

For Credit in the Cork Bible Institute Study Programme

JD	DENT NAME:	_ DATE: SCORE:
1.	, Jazz	
2.	Define the word, "Vocation":	
3.	When does a Christian get a vocation?	
4.	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	an serving the Lord:
5.	6)	
	1)	
6.	1)	
7. 8.	List the name of a denomination that makes too much emphasis on	the Holy Spirit:
10.	Who is the One Lord of the believer?	-
12.	 List the seven Baptisms in the Bible: 1)	

- 3)

 4)

 5)

 6)

 7)
- 13.