

Bible Study Discussion

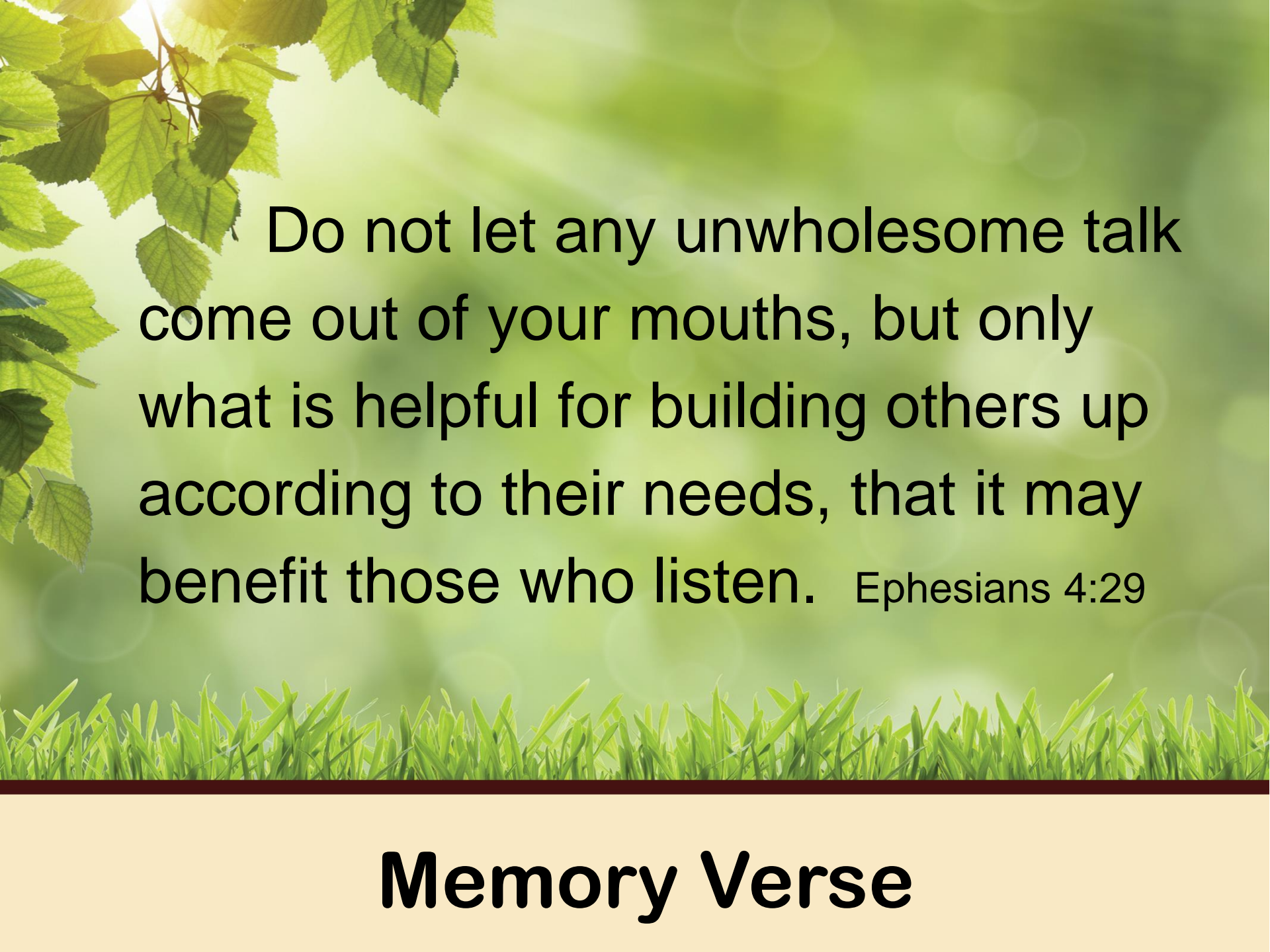
2013 -2014

Ephesians 2:1-13

Lesson 6



Gift of Unity



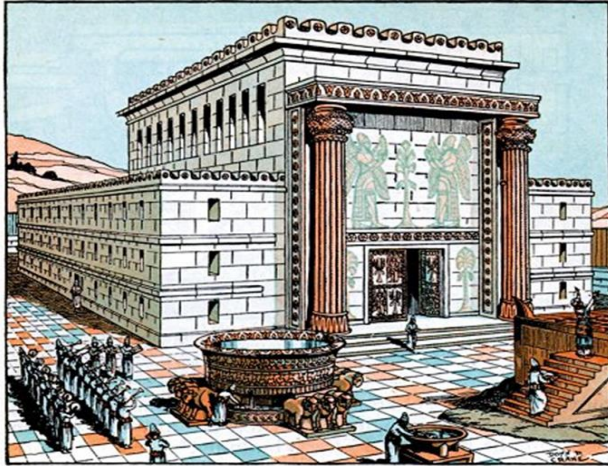
Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

Memory Verse

Rafael Cruz and son, Senator Ted Cruz



Where does God live?



It's all about Jesus!

- Jesus is the cornerstone
- New creation functions only in relation to Jesus.
- Jesus is the mediator who brings peace.
- Jesus gives access to the Father.
- Jesus asked the Father to send the Advocate.
- Jesus provides the unity and growth.
- Jesus includes both Gentile and Jewish believers.

The Church: The New Humanity



Believer's Response is:

Thanksgiving and Praise
Maintenance of Unity
Development of Diverse
Gifts
Maturity in the Faith

Operations Manual

For US Covenant Partners



With Chapter 4-6, we start our
Operations Manual for the New Humanity.

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PROLOGUE: Christ-in-the-Church

What has God done through Christ?

- Called believers into the gift of salvation. (Eph 1:3-14)
- Gave believers a magnificent hope. (1:18)
- United believers with Christ (1:20-22, 2:6)
- Reconciled believers to God through Jesus' death and victory (2:13-16)
- Called believers into one new humanity (2:15)
- Established believers as members of God's household, a new temple in the Lord (2:15, 19. 21)
- Gave believers access to the Father by the Holy Spirit (2:18)
- Bestowed believers with great privileges, certain expectations, and serious responsibilities. (4:1-16)



Appropriate Behavior Christ-in-the-World

chapter 1TM

- Humility (meekness or kindness toward others)
- Gentleness (calmness)
- Patience
- Forbearance (self control and restraint)
- Love

Chapter Two: Unity

One Body

One Hope

One Faith

One Spirit

One Lord

One Baptism

One God and Father of All



Father: *over all* the family of God
Son: *through all* the family of God
Spirit: *in all* the family of God

Unity of the people of God must consist above all in common trust, common obedience, common listening to the words of the Lord.

By Theodore O. Wedel,
The Interpreter's Bible

Unity: Tower of Babel vs. The Church



- Babel was a monument to people power.
Church celebrates Christ's victory over death.
- Babel was human achievement.
Church is Christ-given. It is not about our understanding of human worth but of our sinfulness and need for forgiveness.
- Babel is monument to humankind.
Church is Christ centered. Unity is Christ given.
- Babel was about human pride.
Church is about human humility.
- Babel was built by love of self.
Church is built by love of Christ and selflessness.
- Babel was destroyed.
Church continues to mature.

Chapter 3: Diversity

Distribution of Different Gifts to the Various Members so that Everyone is a Contributing Part to the Unity

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

Ephesians 4:7-10 NIV

Diversity

- Diversity is never at the cost of unity.
- The individual has a gifted role in the Church.
- Believers are members of the Messiah's body and take orders from the head and must be brought into line with what the head intends. The head of the Church is Jesus.
- Gifts mentioned were those that were needed at that particular time and is not an exhaustive list.

Apostles (Eye witnesses)

Prophets (Prior to the written New Testament, they were needed to speak in the name of the Lord for guiding and directing the church)

Evangelists (carry on the work of the apostles)

Pastors (shepherds and nurturers of the congregations)

Teachers (transmitters of the Word and encouragers of its application)

Purpose of the Diverse Gifts:

1. Equip the members for service.
2. Build up the body
3. Maintain unity
4. Mature so that we are not vulnerable and we grow into Christ-likeness.

Chapter 4: Maturity

We need maturity because we are vulnerable, in need of protection and stability. We need to recognize and resist deceitful teaching. We need to grow toward perfection.



- Infants (We need a childlike heart to grow, but we do not need childishness. Christianity is not a religion only for children.)
- Boats tossed in a windy sea
- Prey to cunning charlatans or false teachers or Satan



Jesus gave us an example of how we are to live and what we are to look like. We should grow in Christ in every way (faith, knowledge, unity, and love). The more we become like Christ, the more we are incorporated into him. Christ is not only the goal, but the source of growth because Jesus supplies the unity, nourishment, and the progress.



What gift has God given you?

**Where do you need to grow
toward maturity?**

Applying the Lesson in Your Life

Closing Prayer

