

The Application of the Foundation

Or ...

A Sound Orthodoxy and Profound Doxology

Or ...

The Fruit of Truth

Ephesians 4:1-5:21

Paul, as was his custom, begins his letter to the churches in Asia Minor by establishing the firm foundation upon which every Christian, and every church, must stand.

In Romans –

- Romans 1-11 – Doctrine
- Romans 12-16 – Application

In Colossians –

- Colossians 1-2 – Doctrine
- Colossians 3-4 – Application

Sometimes he does it in a paragraph – or sentence ... ***doctrine precedes application.***

1 Corinthians 1:9–10

9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

And here in our study of Ephesians ...

- Ephesians 1-3 – **Doctrine**
- Ephesians 4-6 – **Application**

The doctrinal section – you might recall ... is considered to be unrivaled in all the Scriptures.

Here is what we said – back in August when we began this book:

John MacKay – former president of Princeton Theological Seminary

Ephesians is “the greatest...maturest...and for our time the most relevant” of all of Paul’s writings. “This letter is pure music.”

William Barclay, quoting Ruth Paxson

Ruth Paxson called Ephesians “the Grand Canyon of Scripture,” meaning that it is breathtakingly beautiful and apparently inexhaustible to the one who wants to take it in.

James Montgomery Boice

“If Ephesians is profound, it is so not for the mysterious nature of its unfathomable deep secrets, but for the clear way it presents the most basic Christian truths.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones on Luther, Romans, and Ephesians

“I would venture to add that if the Epistle to the Romans is the purest expression of the gospel, the Epistle to the Ephesians is the **sublimest and the most majestic** expression of it.”

And the opening chapters are, in fact, filled with these sublime and majestic expressions ...

Ephesians 1:3–4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Ephesians 2:4–10

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 3:14–16

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,
16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Ephesians 3:20–21

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

This is the gospel ... the **grace** of the gospel, the **love** of the gospel, the **power** of the gospel ...

Now one of the ways we say this --- THESE ARE THE **INDICATIVES** OF THE GOSPEL.

This is what you are ... this is what God has done.

And many stop there - -

The gospel is love ...

The gospel is grace ...

The gospel is what He has done - - and He has done it all ...

And the implication of that is ... **WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO.**

All of the TO DOs were in the Old Testament ... that is the Law ...

But if we look, we will see that **SOUND ORTHODOXY** --- PRODUCES A **SOUND DOXOLOGY** ...

The imperatives of the gospel are the foundation upon which APPLICATION MUST NOW BEGIN.

There is to be fruit ---

What I've done is take a large section - - **Chapter 4:1 – 5:21** ... and I want to read it and then notice three things ...

1. **General Application**
2. **Negative Application – Don't**
3. **Positive Application – Do**

Ephesians 4–5:21

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.
8 Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”
9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?
10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)
11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.
18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.
19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.
20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!—
21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,
22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,
23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,
24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
27 and give no opportunity to the devil.
28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.
4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.
5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
7 Therefore do not become partners with them;
8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),
10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.
11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.
12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,
14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."
15 Look carefully then how you walk, **not as unwise** but as **wise**,
16 **making the best use of the time**, because the days are evil.
17 Therefore **do not be foolish**, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**.
18 And **do not get drunk with wine**, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit**,
19 **addressing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody to the Lord with your heart,
20 **giving thanks always** and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
21 **submitting** to one another out of reverence for Christ.

GENERAL APPLICATION

- Walk in a worthy manner
- Reach for maturity
- No longer walk like Gentiles
- Put off your old self
- Put on the new self
- Be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- Walk as children of light

NEGATIVE APPLICATION – DON'T

- Don't be futile in your mind
- Don't be ignorant
- Don't be hard-hearted
- Don't be callous
- Don't be surrendered to sensuality
 - Committed to impurity
 - Sexual immorality
- Don't lie
- Don't steal
- Don't talk corrupt
 - Filthiness
 - Foolish talk
 - Crude joking
- Don't hate
 - Bitterness
 - Wrath
 - Anger
 - Clamor
 - Slander
 - Malice
- Don't covet
- Don't be deceived
- Don't participate in the works of darkness
- Don't be unwise
- Don't be foolish

- Don't be out of control

POSITIVE APPLICATION – DO

- Be humble
- Be gentle
- Be patient
 - Bearing with one another
- Speak the truth
- Be growing
- Be angry – holy anger
- Be tenderhearted
- Be forgiving
- Be loving
- Be thankful
- Be discerning
- Be exposing
- Be wise
- Be organized
 - Make the most of your time
- Be studying
 - Understand the will of God
 - Be filled with the Spirit
- Be transparent
 - Speaking to one another
- Be singing
- Be submitting