

December 15 Answers

- 1) Having reminded the Ephesians of their new identity in Christ, Paul now exhorted them to **walk** worthy of their high and holy calling. Once again, this reminds us that theology matters, for right **thinking** must come before right living. Paul began with a plea for love and **unity**. This teaches us that we must treat our brothers and sisters with **patience** and gentleness, **bearing** with them in love and humility. Paul went on to say that within the unity of the church, there is a diversity of **gifts**, and when they are exercised properly, the Spirit will lead the church to **maturity**. Notice that Paul said that the apostles and shepherds and teachers were given “to **equip** the saints for the **work** of the ministry” (Eph 4:12). This means that the work of the ministry is **my** responsibility. Paul then pointed out the impact that individual **holiness** has on the health and growth of the church. The church **depends** on our consistent obedience to God’s Word in order to succeed. Above all, we must **yield** each day to the desires of the Holy Spirit. Rather than being “drunk with wine,” we are to be under the Spirit’s **influence**, allowing Him to guide and control all we do and say (Eph 5:18). As we walk in the light, the Spirit will lead us to **submit** “to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Eph 5:21). Paul concluded by saying, “Finally, be **strong** in the Lord and in the strength of his might” (Eph 6:10). This teaches us that the battles we face are ultimately **spiritual** battles.