

Ephesians

A Real Piece of Work

Week Six

Hello! [Hola! Bonjour!]

Have you ever studied another language? It's hard! As Steve Martin observed, "It's like those French have a different word for EVERYTHING!" And, it doesn't take long to realize that translating from one language to another is more complicated than just learning an alternate vocabulary. (Hello=Bonjour, Dress=Robe) The grammar is different. If we learn the vocabulary but don't arrange the words in the right order, we get the meaning wrong. (There's the story of someone's German Grandfather who was always saying things like, "Throw the cow over the fence some hay.") Then, there is the whole issue of figures of speech that make sense in one language, but don't necessarily translate well. ("It's raining cats and dogs," or, "I'm dead on my feet," might not make sense in a word-for-word translation.)

All of these challenges and more are true for Bible translation as well. The Bible was not written in English, after all! Some translators take an almost word-for-word approach, while others translate thought for thought. That's one reason we have so many translations to choose from. The great thing for us is that if a passage is confusing or unclear in one translation we can **read it in another translation** that might be easier to follow! That's the third Tool in our Interpretation Toolbelt. When our questions might be better phrased, "Now what in the world does that mean?" looking at another translation is a great way to find an answer.

Many of us own a variety of translations that we've collected over the years. (King James, New American Standard, The New Living Translation, New International Version...) But if you don't have alternate translations sitting around your house—do not go out and buy anything! Websites—like biblegateway.com and blueletterbible.org—provide us a variety of translations at the click of a mouse! Some of those translations are in languages other than English, in case it would help you to read a passage in Spanish, or French, or German...

Adios!

Week Six Homework

Observe (What Do I SEE?)

Pray...Read...Mark up the passage...List 1-2 observations per verse.

Ephesians 4:17-32 (NIV)

Observations

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

²⁰ You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.

²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

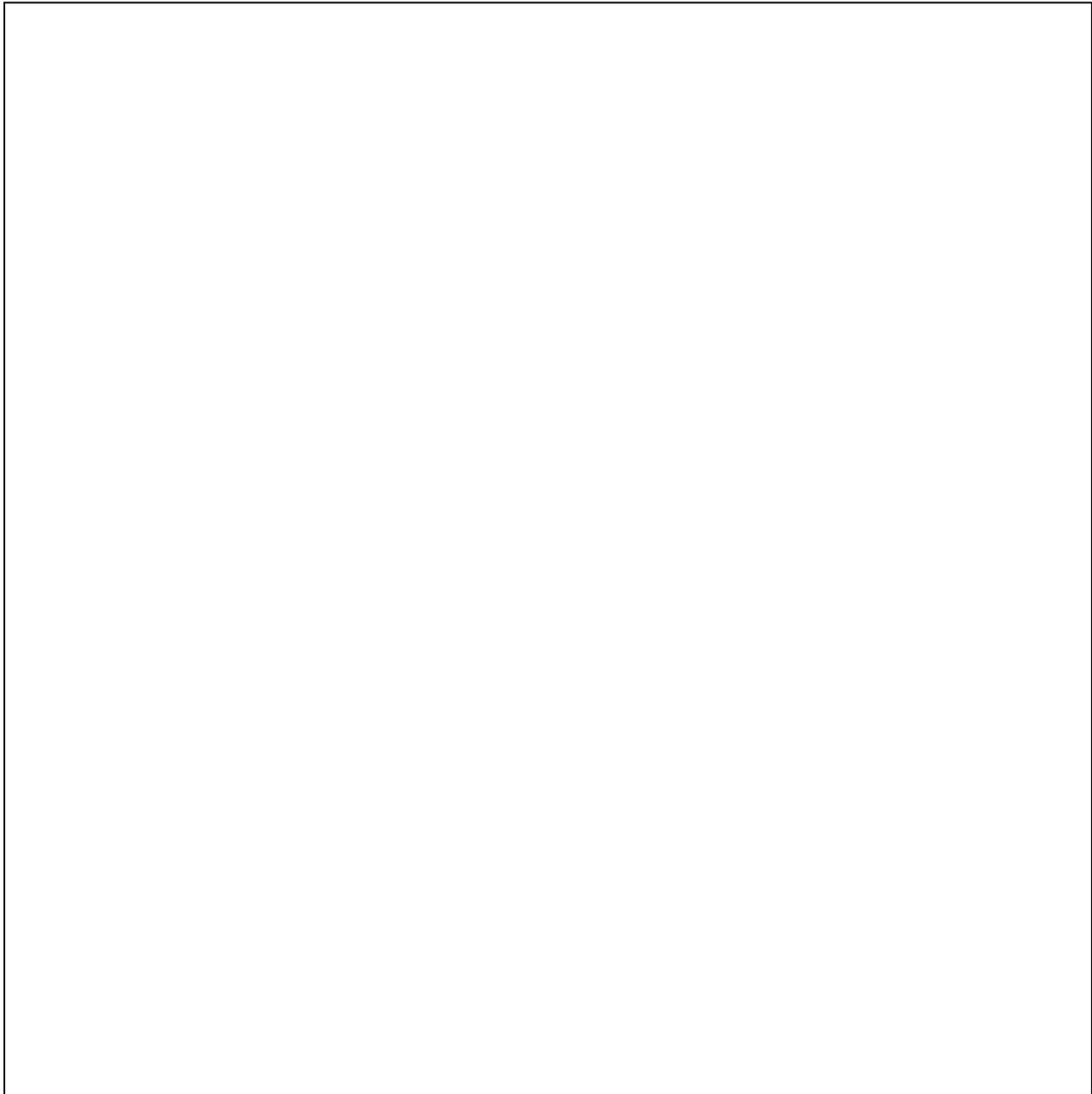
“Lump and Label”...Go back over the passage and look for 2-4 “lumps” of content that together express one idea. Give each “lump” a “label.” Try to make your labels as brief as possible.

<i>Lump (verses)</i>	<i>Label</i>

List any questions you have about this passage.

Interpret (What Does it MEAN?)

Use Another Translation to gain insight...if any of your questions involved a phrase or a concept that was confusing or unclear, read the passage in a different translation...or two. Websites like biblegateway.com and blueletterbible.org provide many translations at the click of a mouse! Record what you discover.

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Apply (How Does it WORK?)

Make it practical. Now that you have spent some time looking in detail at God's Word, don't stop! Ask yourself, "How does this work...in general...and for ME?" You may find it helpful to look for...

S—a SIN to avoid

P—a PROMISE to claim

E—an EXAMPLE to follow

C—a COMMAND to obey

K—KNOWLEDGE of God to believe

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