

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 46 (#912226)
WEEK 10 (912350)
©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 46 – Walk In Love Even As Christ Walked In Love

MONDAY

OPEN

What is the cure for what ails you? For what really is upsetting you and making you at odds with others? Beloved, it is to [be kind to one another. It is to forgive one another.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:32a) It is to walk in love the same love with which Christ loved you. You say, “Don’t tell me about forgiving. You don’t know what’s been done to me.” Beloved, do you want to be healed? We’ll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Oh what a book of life we have in the Word of God. These are words of life. These are the precepts of God, the standards, the commandments by which I am to order my life and when I do there is healing, there is peace. I was battling with depression and that is not usual for me but there’s a hurt in my life that is just so grievous. It’s something that I never dreamed would ever

happen and I found myself depressed. I just turned and I looked at Jack. I was sitting in our office and I turned from my computer and I looked at my husband who was sitting there watching television and I said, “I’m going to bed.” I said, “I’ve had it and I’ve got to go to bed.” And I got up and I walked and he was so sweet. He was so kind to me and I couldn’t function. I couldn’t get my desk clean. I had work piled up all around me and I thought I can’t get my act together. And so I went in I don’t even think I took off my makeup and I got in bed and I was in bed at soon after 7 o’clock that night and I didn’t wake up until 8 o’clock the next morning. Now when we’re depressed many times we wanna just go to bed. We wanna forget it. We wanna sleep and forget that life exists but sometimes sleep is very good for depression because we can get so tired that we can’t think clearly. Well I got up and I’d had a good night sleep and I started thinking about where I was and the way I was behaving and the way I was responding and I thought God, Your promises are yea and amen. Your Word says that I am to [count it all joy when I am in a trial] (PARAPHRASE, James 1:2), that I am to [give thanks in everything for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning me.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Thessalonians 5:18) I know these truths and I am going to act on them. I am going to I am going to do what you tell me to do and so I began to do other things that I’ve learned in Ephesians [singing and making melody in my heart to the Lord, giving thanks for all things.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:13b-14a) And so this is what I began to do and the depression lifted because I was obedient. O Beloved, this passage in Ephesians chapter 4 in verses 31 and 32 where He tells us that we are to **“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander ...** [along with all malice to be put away from us] is a command. **(Ephesians 4:31)** And we are to obey that command and this is what I want you to see. This is the purpose of this program. We are learning God’s precepts for life and as we learn God’s precepts for life what you and I have to understand is they’re there but you and I have to act on them. We have to do what God

tells us to do. Now He's not saying you tell your relative to get rid of that bitterness, to get rid of that anger, to get rid of that wrath, etc. You can't command another person to do that. It won't work. It won't happen. They have to decide but I wanna tell you something. You don't have to be part of that. You don't have to give tit for tat. If they're gonna be bitter, you're gonna be bitter back. If they're gonna full of wrath, you're gonna be full of wrath back. If they're gonna be angry, you're gonna be angry back. You don't have to do that because if you're a child of God, the Holy Spirit has sealed you inside and He is there in all of His power. All of that inherent power that you and I have seen as we have been studying Ephesians. And so what I want us to do is to look at these commands. These are imperatives and I want us to see okay, how do I handle them? Now I've told you how in the opening to this program but we're going to elaborate on it. First of all He says, **“Let all bitterness ... be put away from you....” (Ephesians 4:31a)** Now this word for “bitterness” in the Greek is “p-i-k-r-i-a,” “p-i-k-r-i-a” and it is a spite, now listen very carefully, that harbors resentment. It is like a harbor and the ships are in and they are all loaded with resentment. They are getting ready to unload their cargo and it is resentment and it's a bitterness, now listen carefully, that keeps score of all the wrongs. Surely you've dealt with someone that was bitter. And maybe they were bitter towards you because you failed. Maybe you asked them to forgive you. Maybe you said, “I am sorry.” Maybe you have said, “You know, it is past and I can't change anything about the past but I can do something about the future.” And yet they harbor that bitterness. They have kept a score and they are able to tell you how you failed, how you've been a lousy this, how you've been a lousy that and if only you had and why did you? Now that's what they're doing but you don't have to do it back and you are not to do it. That bitterness, that harboring of resentment, that spitefulness is to be put away from you and so is wrath. Now this word for “wrath” is “thumos,” “t-h-u-m-o-s.” and I mean it is an explosion! That's what it is. It's a wrath that literally explodes. Now

it is a word that is used for the wrath of God and when you understand how it's used for the wrath of God then you understand wrath in you. But the wrath of God is the end. It's the lake of fire. It's the judgment of God. It's the battle of God against all the forces of mankind when they come against Him. That's wrath. So that is to be put away from you. Now you've got to put away bitterness. You've got to put away wrath but you've got to put away anger. And this word for "anger" is "o-r-g-e," "o-r-g-e" and it is a common word for anger. As a matter of fact if you will look at verse 26 it says, "**Be angry....**" (Ephesians 4:26a) It's the same word "o-r-g-e" and then it says, "**...Yet do not sin; [nor] do not let the sun go down on your anger.**" (Ephesians 4:26b) And what you have there when it talks about anger is a word that incorporates "o-r-g-e" in it and it is "p-a-r-o-r-g-i-s-m-o-s" and it means a severe exasperation. It means an irritation and this is what anger does. Anger build up inside of you, and as that anger builds up you're constantly irritable, you're constantly exasperated. Your fuse is very short. Your words are very cutting, even your body language. It all comes out in this anger, and He says, "I want you to put that away." You may be living with an angry person but don't go nose to nose with them in that anger because why? Bitterness and wrath and anger as I told you in an earlier program are very destructive to your health, very destructive to your body, very destructive to your emotions and very destructive to relationships. When you look at people that are like this you know that that root of bitterness because it has not been dealt with is troubling and defiling that person. Remember we talked about this and we looked at it in Hebrews chapter 12 and I want to go back to Hebrews chapter 12. He mentions bitterness and he says in verse 15, "**See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God....**" (Hebrews 12:15a) Now to come short of the grace of God means I come right up to the edge of getting everything that God has for me all the power that grace has, all the sufficiency that grace has, all the ability to handle anything that grace has because it's unmerited unearned

favor and grace is power. You see that in 2 Corinthians chapter 12 when it says [His power is perfected in our weakness.] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 12:9b) So [grace is power and He says don’t come short of the grace of God.] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 12:15a) He says step over that line into the grace of God. And when you step over that line into the grace of God then God’s power is poured out on you and you can handle it not matter what’s coming your way. Now there’s a clinical depression. There’s a biochemical depression but the way to handle depression is not to cut yourself off from God or to cut yourself off from the grace of God but it’s to step in it and let him pour out His lavish extravagant grace upon you. [His grace that is sufficient.] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 12:9) His power that is perfected in weakness so that you can glory in your infirmities and in weaknesses and necessities and in reproaches because when you’re weak then you’re strong if you don’t come short of the grace of God. But let’s look at what He goes on to say, “[Lek Make sure] **that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up** [in you] **causes trouble....**” (Hebrews 12:15a) You see if you don’t get rid of bitterness it’s gonna cause trouble and you don’t want it. You’ve heard that song, “There’s Trouble. (*“YA GOT TROUBLE”*) There’s trouble here in River city.” You don’t want trouble in your city. You don’t want trouble in your heart. You don’t want trouble in your home. So you’ve got to get rid of it. He says, “**...that** [there be] **no root of bitterness springing up** [that] **causes trouble, and by it many** [are] **defiled.**” (Hebrews 12:15b) It defiles. It not only hurts you but it hurts others. We’ll talk about all of this and the cure after this announcement.

PART TWO

Have you ever gotten so mad, Beloved, that you found your voice getting louder and louder and louder until finally you were just screaming at another person? I want you to know that I’ve been there. Not to the screaming point

but to the point where my voice was getting very, very loud and very, very hard. Well when we look at Ephesians chapter 4, God tells us “Hey, it is not to be that way. Not only do I not want bitterness in your life, not only do I not want wrath in your life and you blowing up or this simmering anger that’s on the front burner of your emotions about to boil over.” He says, “But I want you to also put away clamor. I don’t want you yelling. It is not becoming to the child of God. And not only that but once you start yelling then it provokes the other person to start getting loud also. Remember it is, “A [soft] **answer [that] turns away wrath....**” (**Proverbs 15:1a**) And not only that does He say, “I want you to get rid of the clamor but I don’t want any slander.” This is what He says in Ephesians chapter 4, verse 31.

“...[Let] slander be put away from you....” (Ephesians 4:31b) You know when we are angry with someone, when we are bitter because of what they have done to us or because of what we think they have done to us then we begin talking about them to other people. We begin to cut them down. We begin criticizing them. We begin to demean them and you know what? We think we get away with it. We think that person’s gonna keep quiet but they’re not. You’re going to hear about it or someone else is going to hear about what you said. And many times God let’s that happen so that you put on the brakes and you see hey, that’s right. I’ve been talking to another person about something that is none of their business. I’ve been talking to another person about a person that I am bitter against, that I am angry with, that I am just full of wrath and it is spilling over and it is spilling on everyone. He says, “I want it stopped. I want you to put it away. I’m commanding you to do this because [you are not to walk as the Gentiles walk in the futility of their mind.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:17b) You are not what you used to be. You are a brand new creation in Christ Jesus and I want you,” now listen carefully, “I want you to walk in love. That’s what I want.” Let me read so that you get all of this in context. He says, **“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put**

away from you, along with all malice.” (Ephesians 4:31) Now malice is a meanness of intent. Malice means hey, I hate you. “Malice” means I’m gonna get even with you. “Malice” means you’re gonna be sorry, I’m going to punish you. In other words there is a hatred there. There is an evil intent there. He says, “**...put [it] away....**” (Ephesians 4:31b) How do you put it away? You, “**Be kind to one another....**” (Ephesians 4:32a) That’s how you put it away. You be kind to one another. Kindness is the opposite of bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander and malice. You say, “But I can’t be kind.” Listen, this is the fruit of the Spirit. So if the Spirit is inside of you you certainly can be kind. You can be just as kind as God is kind. You know God tells us that [His compassions are new every morning and that His lovingkindnesses do not fail.] (PARAPHRASE, Lamentations 3:22-23a) Yes, we reap the harvest of what we’ve done but God is there. God is kind. And so you and I are to be kind to one another. Now watch. “**...Tender-hearted....**” (Ephesians 4:32a) Well when you compare this with the Gentiles, you find out when you go up to verse 18 that because of “**...The hardness of their heart,**” (Ephesians 4:18b) “**...They [have] become callous....**” (Ephesians 4:19a) You are not to become callous. You are to be tender-hearted. You are to look at that person with sympathy and with compassion and you are to put yourself in their shoes and you are to realize that they are a frail human being like you are. Let me ask you a question. Have you ever vomited up on people? Didn’t it help when they saw your vomit and they just said, “Oh I am so sorry.” And they came along and they said, “I’ll clean it up.” And they in their tender-heartedness get down and start to wipe up that smelly vomit and they treat you kindly. This, Beloved, is tender-heartedness. This is putting yourself in that other person’s shoes. It is understanding that God wants us to be kind, that God wants us not to have a heart of stone. He wants us to have a heart of flesh and so then He goes on to say this. He says, “**Be kind to one another, tender-hearted...,**” now watch, “**...forgiving each other, just as....**” (Ephesians

4:31a) One of the phrases that you were to mark because it’s a key repeated phrase, remember, the purpose of this program “Precepts For Life” is to teach you how to go to the Word of God yourself and to discern truth. How to observe the text, how to look for key repeated words and phrases and mark them so that you see the “just as’s” and as you see the “just as” which is a term of comparison. He says, “**Be kind to one another, [be] tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ [has also] forgiven you. “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.” (Ephesians 4-5:1)** You’re His beloved children. Act like your father. He says, “**...Be imitators of God ... and walk in love...,**” walk in love, “**...just as...,**” there’s another “just as,” “**...Christ also loved you....**” (Ephesians 5:1-2a) That’s your example. Now when did Christ love you? [Christ loved you, Romans 5 says when you were a sinner, when you were ungodly, when you were helpless and hopeless, when you were His enemy, Christ loved you and He died for you in that state.] (PARAPHRASE, Romans 5:6, 8, 10) And what He’s saying here is I’m commanding you to put these things away and I am telling you to [be kind to one another. I am telling you to forgive one another.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:31-32) I am telling you to “**...Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you...,**” now watch, “**...and gave Himself up for [you]....**” (Ephesians 5:2a) In other words that person may not deserve it but He says you’re not to decide whether they deserve it or not. You’re to decide to be like your father and to be like your Lord and Master Jesus Christ, like the Father’s Son, your example. You’re to imitate Him. You’re to be everything God wants you to be and He says and He, “**...Gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice ...as a fragrant aroma.**” (Ephesians 5:2b) Oh, Precious One, do you realize what it does to God when you walk in obedience, when you listen to these commands and when you do what God has told you to do? God sees it as a sacrifice. Yes, you’ve laid yourself out on the altar of obedience and it’s a sweet fragrance, an aroma to God. Be His sweet fragrance, Beloved. Be it.