

TRANSITION

Ephesians 3:8-10 [MSG] – And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves **gathered in churches**, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

- **Note:** We who gather in churches are responsible to put God's plan into practice.

Ephesians 4:17-24 [MSG] – And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion. ²⁰⁻²⁴ But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.

Exodus 39:25, 26 – And they made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates on the hem of the robe all around between the pomegranates: ²⁶a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, all around the hem of the robe to minister in, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- **I Corinthians 13:1, 2** – Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- **Mark 12:29-31** – Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.” ³⁰‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. ³¹“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Love – AGAPE. [People Skills]

- **#1 People Skill** – doesn't take offense.
- **#2 People Skill** – avoids being hard or harsh.
- **#3 People Skill** – avoids accessing other people's possessions or achievements.
- **#4 People Skill** – avoids talking only about oneself and their achievements.
- **#5 People Skill** – controls his actions so as not to offend.
- **#6 People Skill** – willingly sets aside its own 'agenda' for the good of others.
- **#7 People Skill** – avoids being oversensitive.
- **#8 People Skill** – avoids "keeping score".
- **#9 People Skill** – stands strong for truth without condemning others.
- **#10 People Skill** – is strong in faith toward God, belief in people, and courage in difficult times.

Galatians 5:19-21 [MSG] – *It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.*

- **"inherit"** – to receive an allotted portion, receive as one's own or as a possession; to become partaker of, to obtain.

Galatians 5:22, 23 – *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Galatians 5:6 [AMP] – *"For if we are in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love."*