

New Testament Letters Biblical Commands

Commands from Ephesians

1. Ephesians 2:11 Remember foundational truth taught in history and in the Old Testament.

Eph 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- (NKJ)

History is important in the program and plan of God. As with scripture in the building of line upon line, precept upon precept, so our Christian lives are to be built event upon event with a memory of what has past.

2. Ephesians 4:25 The believer is to speak truth.

Eph 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. (NKJ)

Truth is foundational to the Lord Himself and His Word. Jesus said of Himself that "I am the Way the Truth and the Life . . . (Jn 14:6). The primary life and speech of the believer is to be in the sphere of TRUTH.

3. Ephesians 4:26 The believer is commanded to have a proper righteous and just anger. This anger is directed towards sin and evil and yet is not to cross the line of entering into sinful anger.

Eph 4:26 Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, (NKJ)

All three commands derived from Ephesians 4:26 set forth God's Will on proper anger and the proper handling of anger.

4. Ephesians 4:26 In being angry towards sin and evil the believer is not to cross the line that leads to sinful anger.

Eph 4:26 Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, (NKJ)

5. Ephesians 4:26 In any expression of anger, the Lord commands that it is to be released when the sun goes down. Believers are not to take anger to bed.

Eph 4:26 Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, (NKJ)

6. Ephesians 4:27 The believer is to be aware of the devil (Satan), and commanded to be careful not to give place or any position in life to the devil.

Eph 4:27 nor give place to the devil. (NKJ)

Scripture pictures Satan as walking about as a roaring lion looking to devour. He and his followers are seeking to snare and defeat the believer. He is presented as using deception, fleshly lusts, and even appearing as "an angel of light."

7. Ephesians 4:28 The believer is to avoid the specific sin of stealing and all of its ramifications as delineated under the eighth commandment.

Eph 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. (NKJ)

One of the major sins of paganism is stealing. One can steal material things, time from an employer, or that which he may believe that he is owed. It is God's Will that we not steal.

8. Ephesians 4:28 The Believer is commanded to labor working in good and proper occupations to gain substance as well as to share that substance.

Eph 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. (NKJ)

The primary way in which prosperity comes in the Will of God is by honest labor working. This is God's clear will. It does not come by chance, the gamble, nor by dependence on the state. It comes by the work of the hands.

9. Ephesians 4:29 The believer is commanded to control his tongue avoiding communication that tears down rather than builds up.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. (NKJ)

"Corrupt words" are from the original word's that are "putrid, rotten or unfit." They speak of words that tear down, that spew curses, that bring down rather than edify the conversation as well as those hearing the conversation.

10. Ephesians 4:30 God's Will is for the believer to follow the leading of the Spirit away from sin and not to grieve him by choosing for sin.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (NKJ)

The Holy Spirit is grieved by the believer when given the "way of escape" from temptation by the leading of the Spirit, chooses to sin.

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (NKJ)

11. Ephesians 4:31 It is God's will that the believer grows to see specific sins conquered and put away.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. (NKJ)

The listing here takes up several sins specific to the Ephesian believers. These sins fall into the categories of (1) Mental Attitude Sins and (2) Sins of the Tongue. They would be classified as follows:

Mental Attitude Sins

Bitterness
Wrath
Anger
Malice

Sins of the Tongue

Clamor
Evil Speaking/Slander (Blasphemy)

12. Ephesians 4:32 It is God's Will that the believer becomes the new man in conduct by adopting the Lord's alternatives to the sins of the last command.

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. (NKJ)

The Lord's positive listing sets forth 3 major areas of change in the life that are expected. Each of the areas is taken on as a sinful area of conduct is set aside.

Kind - The root is the original word for grace. This means that the will of God for the believer is to be a growing graciousness and inner kindness that will be also expressed externally.

Tender Hearted - The idea is compassionate. This is a growing awareness of seeing things as the Lord Himself sees them. Jesus Himself is the great example:

Matt 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. (NKJ)

Forgiving - The believer is required to be forgiving as the scriptural principles are met. Either way, the believer is not to harbor mental attitude sins toward other offending persons.

13. Ephesians 5:1 God's Will is for the believer to learn of and imitate God Himself. The visible example is Jesus.

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. (NKJ)

The believer cannot imitate One of whom he/she knows little. Those individuals in the world of comedy who do imitations, do so based on close watching and understanding of the person they seek to imitate. The believer should do no less.

14. Ephesians 5:2 God's Will for the believer is to walk in love which has obedience to His commands as the most basic definition.

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (NKJ)

The much used Biblical phrase "walk-in" involved the believer walking in the ongoing temporal Plan of God. The objects differ to emphasize different emphasizes of His Plan. "Love" involves most basically the keeping of His commands.

15. Ephesians 5:3 God's Will for the believer is complete removal and no association with specific lust area sins.

Eph 5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; (NKJ)

Fornication - This is the broad umbrella category of sexual lust sins involving sex outside of the divinely appointed gift of marriage.

Uncleanness - This is all manner of "kinky" lust fulfilling appetites that are practiced by the sinful world. It is outside of Biblical marital love in which the "marriage bed is undefiled . . ."

Covetousness - The word here is a greedy desire or greedy lust for satisfaction

16. Ephesians 5:5 It is God's Will that we know the standards for inheritance in His Kingdom and those areas of sin that destroy inheritance.

Eph 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (NKJ)

The command is "TO KNOW" what destroys the inheritance of the believer by way of ongoing sin and continued failure in living the Christian life. Here the three sin areas of lust are again brought forth: fornication, unclean fulfilling of unclean (kinky) desires, and unbridled greedy lust.

17. Ephesians 5:6 It is God's Will that the believer not be deceived particularly in the areas of sins hindering growth, judgment, and inheritance.

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (NKJ)

The sins being set forth in context of lustful fornication, uncleanness, and covetous desire not only hinder growth and inheritance, but are sure to bring down the judgment of God.

18. Ephesians 5:7 It is God's Will that the believer quickly understand and handle such areas of sin initially by Christian growth and later with immediate attention.

Eph 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. (NKJ)

Unbelievers and the world system under go harsh judgment from God by indulging in these areas of sin.

19. Ephesians 5:8 It is God's Will for believers to walk in the light of God's Truths and Biblical conduct as children of the light.

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (NKJ)

The life and conduct of the believer is EXPECTED to change as presented in this section of Ephesians. Darkness and the works of darkness are to be understood and replaced with understanding of and practice of the works of the "light."

20. Ephesians 5:11a God's Will is that the believer have no fellowship or ongoing connections with the works or sinful areas of darkness.

Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. (NKJ)

The believer is in the world, but not to be of the world. Therefore, it is God's will that the believer remain above those practicing in the sinful areas of darkness. No fellowship does not mean no contact. The believer is to avoid ongoing relationship that rises above contact.

21. Ephesians 5:11b It is God's Will that such works of darkness be exposed by the believer acting as both "light" to expose and "salt" to be used to restrain.

Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. (NKJ)

The believer is commanded to act as salt and light. Light shows the way to the Lord as well as exposing the works of darkness. Salt acts to retard the decay and degeneracy of a world languishing under the curse of sin.

22. Ephesians 5:14a It is God's Will for the coasting sleeping believer to wake up to the battle and the reasons for which the Lord leaves believers on earth.

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." (NKJ)

Sleeping believers are soldiers for the Lord asleep when they need to be on watch or in the battle. The will of God is for every believer to be growing, maturing, and advancing. They are to be moving forward in God's Plan in accomplishing His objectives for their lives.

23. Ephesians 5:14b It is God's Will that believers grow away from former works of darkness and the conduct of the Old Man life.

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." (NKJ)

The Lord's Will is that the believer experientially now arise from the dead, move out of the dead works and dead patterns of the old life.

24. Ephesians 5:15 It is God's Will that the believer takes an active part in seeing to his/her new life in Christ.

Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, (NKJ)

The actual command involves the believer "seeing to" his/her Christian life. The details involve seeing that the believer conducts his/her life (walking) in the wise principles set forth by the Lord and no longer following the foolish principles of the world.

25. Ephesians 5:17a It is God's Will for the believer to progress beyond the foolishness and lack of wisdom of the world and its anti-Biblical principles.

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (NKJ)

That which stands in opposition to the Lord is Biblically labeled as foolishness or unwise. Not knowing or wanting to know the will of the Lord is both unwise and foolish.

26. Ephesians 5:17b It is God's Will that the believer come to know God's will.

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (NKJ)

The Lord wants the believer to come to know and follow His Will. The believer is to know it and understand it.

27. Ephesians 5:18a It is God's Will that the believer not be an ongoing drunk or under ongoing control of wine.

Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (NKJ)

Drunkenness blunts the soul and the volition of the person involved. Therefore it exercises a certain level of control. The Lord commands against such control.

28. Ephesians 5:18b It is God's Will that the believer be under the filling or controlling ministry of God's holy Spirit.

Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (NKJ)

The believer after salvation faces a crossroads of life. Prior to salvation, the only choice was living life "in the flesh" under the control of the sin nature doing Human Good or Sinning. After salvation, the believer is dead to having to serve the "flesh" and is called to walk in the Spirit or be filled/controlled by the Spirit. The will of the Lord is a yielding of members/ourselves to righteousness (Romans 6) and a conducting of life being filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit.

29. Ephesians 5:25 It is God's Will for husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the body of believers called the church.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, (NKJ)

At the most foundational level, love is defined as keeping the commandments of the Lord. A foundational love of the husband towards his wife involves a husband knowing and following those commands that are uniquely his, pertaining to the wife. Among them are the providing of food, clothing, and duty in marriage (Ex 21:10). Built on this foundation are the other sixteen aspects of love found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

30. Ephesians 5:33. It is God's Will for husbands to love their wives as much as they love themselves in the concern and care of their own person.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (NKJ)

An additional principle that adds to the command for husbands to love their wives is the extent of this love: as much as one loves self.

Eph 5:28-29 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. (NKJ)

31. Ephesians 6:1 It is God's Will for children to obey their parents.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (NKJ)

Parents as well as other delegated authorities act as "buffers" between man and God. For a child, the general will of God will generally be communicated through parents.

32. Ephesians 6:2 It is God's Will for children of all ages to honor their parents in hearing them as well as caring for them in old age.

Eph 6:2 Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: (NKJ)

The honoring of father and mother begins with reverence and respect in the home along with obedience. Upon leaving the home parents are to be heard as advisers. In old age honor includes the care of aged parents.

33. Ephesians 6:4a It is God will for parents to avoid provoking children to anger by anti-scriptural unfairness or anti-just and anti-righteous actions.

Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (NKJ)

The sense of fairness and justice can be easily manipulated in a child and thus provokes anger and eventual rebellion. God's Will is for His Own justice and fairness to be communicated to the child through the Godly actions and laws of parents in the home.

34. Ephesians 6:4b It is the Will of God for parents to bring up children in the knowledge and ways of the Lord.

Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (NKJ)

A Christian Home is one of the best blessings that can be passed on to a child. Numerous commands from the Law of Moses, involve a passing on to children the knowledge of God, His commands and His blessings as He was followed in time past. God's Will is that children learn of the Lord.

35. Ephesians 6:5 It is God's Will that all rightly established authorities be obeyed.

Eph 6:5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; (NKJ)

The Lord has delegated some of His authority to others. As such, these delegated authorities carry aspects of God's Will for the individual believer. The scriptures speak of masters and servants. This translates to employers and employees, teachers and students, etc.

36. Ephesians 6:9 It is God's will for those having delegated authority from the Lord to fulfill their role of authority as unto the Lord.

Eph 6:9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. (NKJ)

God's will for authorities is that they perform their callings also being under the authority of the Lord Himself. Authority is ultimately granted by the Lord and delegated by Him.

- 37. Ephesians 6:10 It is God's Will for believer to seek the inherent power of the Lord and continually strengthened in the Lord.**

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (NKJ)

- 38. Ephesians 6:11 God has supplied the believer with a complete set of spiritual armor and it is His Will that we put on the supplied spiritual armor.**

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (NKJ)

- 39. Ephesians 6:13 The Armor of the Lord is to put on and used in the spiritual battle faced by every believer. The emphasis here is God's Will to make use of the armor**

Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (NKJ)

- 40. Ephesians 6:14 God's Will for the believer is that we stand firm and solid in the faith and the spiritual battle that rages in the world.**

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (NKJ)

- 41. Ephesians 6:17 God's will emphasizes the specific taking up of the salvation helmet and the Word of God sword.**

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (NKJ)

Summary of Commands in Ephesians

1. Remember Truth and Speak Truth #1,2
2. Anger is to be without sin towards sin and evil and released by sunset. #3,4,5
3. Beware of Satan and do not give him a place in life. #6
4. The believer is to avoid specific sins of stealing, corrupt speech, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, malice and drunkenness. #7,9,11,27
5. The believer is to gain wealth by labor. #8
6. The believer is to avoid grieving the Spirit by sin. #10
7. The believer is to be kind, compassionate, forgiving, and an imitator of God. #12,13
8. The believer is to walk in love, as children of light, being filled with the spirit. #14,19,28
9. Sins of fornication, uncleanness, and covetousness are to be understood and not to be named among believers knowing that unbelievers are judged for these sins. #15,16,17,18
10. The believer is not to participate in works of darkness, but expose them. #20,21
11. The believer is to be in the battle rising to new life as wise rather than unwise understanding the Will of God. #22,23,24,25,26
12. Husbands are to love their wives as themselves. #29,30
13. Children are to obey father and mother and honor them always. #31,32
14. Parents are not to provoke anger in children, but nurture them in the Lord. #33,34
15. Employees are to be obedient to employers and employers to the Lord as Master. #35,36
16. Believers are to be strong in the Lord taking up and putting on the armor of God and standing in the evil day particularly with a salvation helmet and sword of God's Word. #37,38,39,40,41