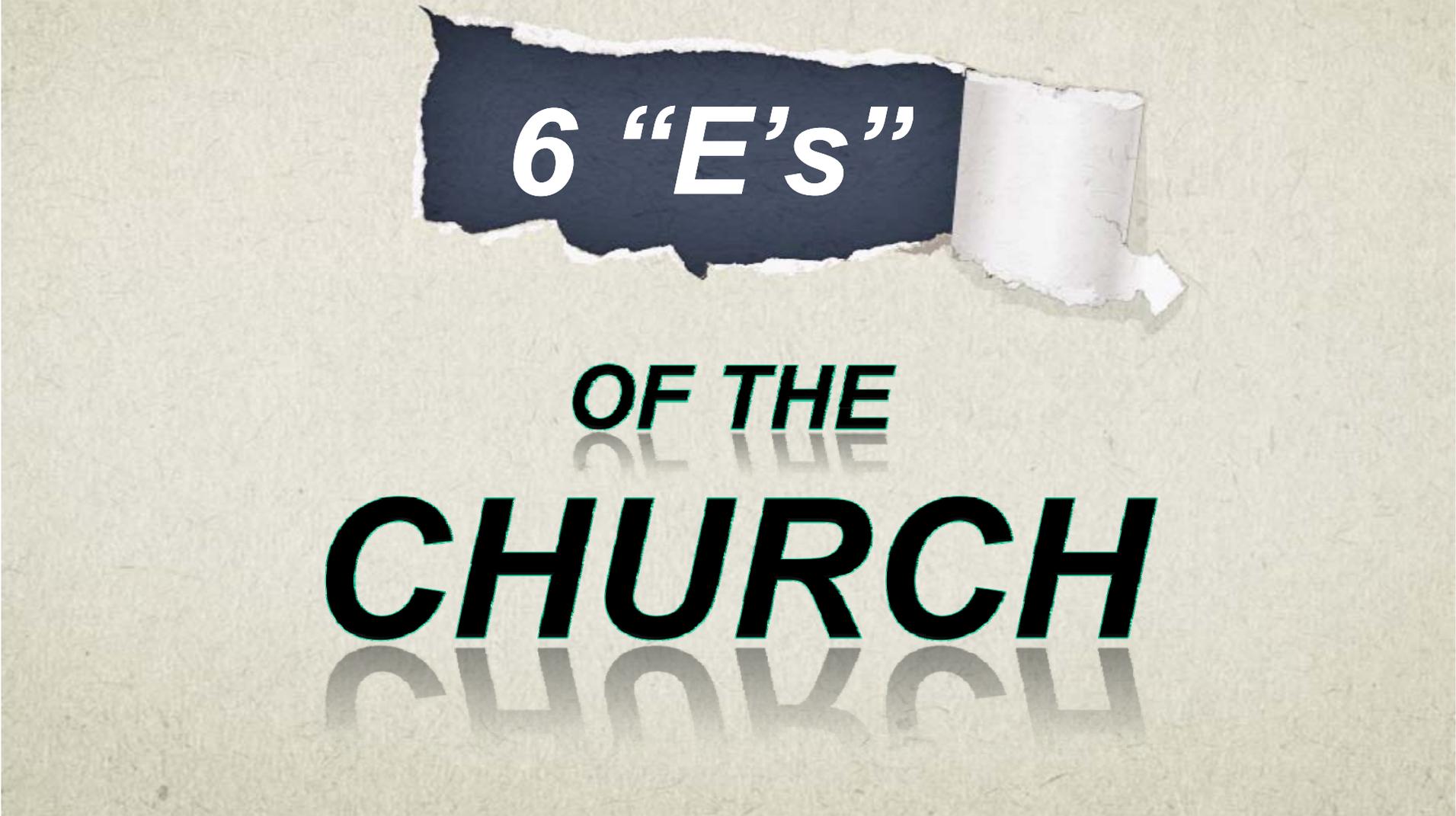


Memory Verse

Ephesians 5:15-16

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

GRACELIFE  CHURCH



6 "E's"

OF THE
CHURCH

The Ekklesia (“Church”) is not a building but:

Everyone who has put their faith in
Jesus Christ alone for salvation
universally, who gather locally, to **exalt**
Christ, **equip** and **empower** believers,
and then scatter to **evangelize** and live
out the gospel while by **engaging** the
world.



Part 6

***ENGAGING
THE WORLD***

Context of Ephesians

Jews and some Gentiles had problems being *unified*. After talking about what the *Jews and Gentiles have in Christ* and being saved by grace through faith, *created to do good works (Eph. 2:8-10)*, he talks about the mystery that Gentiles would become *fellow heirs* with Jews in *chapter 3*. *Chapter 4* addresses the unity in the body, spiritual gifts and how *a leader should equip the saints for ministry*. In *chapter 5*, he says we are to *imitate God, walk in love, avoid sin and walk in light*.

A. Ephesians 5:15-21 – Be Wise in our Walk

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

A. Ephesians 5:15-21 – Be Wise in our Walk

- Be wise in our walk.
- Look “*carefully*” – be very careful and specific or exact in your lives.
- The word “*walk*” is our Christian walk.
- Be filled with the Spirit – being empowered, controlled by and submitted to Him, to do what He wants.
- Different relationships: *body of Christ; wives and husbands; children and parents; working.*
- The 1st way we *engage the world* is being filled with the Spirit.

A. Ephesians 5:15-21 – Be Wise in our Walk

The first relational impact is in the body of Christ.

We are fellow workers with Christ.

My joy and responsibility is to equip you for ministry. How?

Bible Teaching primarily!

B. Ephesians 5:22-6:4 – Be Examples in our Way of Life

Other than the body of Christ, our closest relationships are within our families. This is a second way we engage the world!

In 5:22-6:4 Paul discusses family dynamics.

In his home, he is to *love his wife with Christ's love for the assembly* or church, in giving himself for her. The wife's role and responsibility is to submit to her own husband.

B. Ephesians 5:22-6:4 – Be Examples in our Way of Life

In 6:1-4 Paul **talks directly to the children**, to obey their parents, and quotes from *Exodus 20:12* – the 5th Commandment!

At this time, *children were in the assembly* **with** their *parents*.

Through our families, we *engage the world!*

C. Ephesians 6:5-9 – Be Obedient in our Work

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with Him.

C. Ephesians 6:5-9 – Be Obedient in our Work

We engage the world through our work.

This is where we meet people who do not know Jesus.

*While our words and our walk should match in our family, our lives and our lips should match at work too. Paul told the slaves, or bondservants to obey their masters with fear and trembling, sincerely as they would serve Christ. Then he turns to the **masters** of the slaves and gives instructions to them.*

C. Ephesians 6:5-9 – Be Obedient in our Work

This can be hard! Some have *critical and cruel bosses* or *fellow employees*. Some may have a *very physically, emotionally or mentally demanding job*, or all of these!

1. Do our job with a sincere heart as unto Jesus, because as His followers, we serve Him.
2. He rewards us.
3. Whether employee or employer, we follow Jesus first, represent Him and present Him.

D. Historical Evidence of Engaging the World

What's So Great about Christianity by Dinesh D'Souza:

"Christianity is responsible for the way our society is organized and for the way we currently live. So extensive is the Christian contribution to our laws, our economics, our politics, our arts, our calendar, our holidays, and our moral and cultural priorities that historian J. M. Roberts writes in *The Triumph of the West*, 'We could none of us today be what we are if a handful of Jews nearly two thousand years ago had not believed that they had known a great teacher, seen him crucified, dead, and buried, and then rise again.' "

D. Historical Evidence of Engaging the World

- **Human Rights**: in the ancient world, life was not valuable and women had NO rights!
 - **Abortion and Slavery**: in Greco-Roman culture, killing ones own children was considered an act of beauty. It was because of Christianity, that slavery ended!
 - **Charity**: before Christ, there was little organized charity.
 - **Education**: Jews were very concerned with education.
- Education for the masses is based in the Reformation. The 1st 200 years of the USA, the Bible was the main book. **123** of 124 early American colleges were Christian based when built!