

**Study Aids**  
**Discussion Questions**  
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 129

Questions:

Our lesson states that the central theme of the three chapters of Ephesians covered here is “unity in the Church through Baptism.” What does this phrase mean to you? What does Baptism empower a Christian to do?

Paul says we should be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit” and to grow to a spiritual maturity. We are to grow the body of Christ and build it up in love. Why is it essential for the Church to do this?

To the Roman pagans – and to the unchurched of our day – Paul says they are to “put off” their old nature, which is corrupted, and “put on the new self, which is created after the likeness of God.” Martin Luther referred to this as “daily drowning the Old Adam,” meaning that our old sinful nature has to be put down every day. How do you see these statements of Paul and Luther applying to your life?

Dr. Franzmann has written: “God’s call into the Church shapes the Christian’s every relationship, their relationship to one another in the Church and their relationship to the world.” Does the typical behavior of the sinful world, such as lying, thievery, anger and bitterness, immorality, covetousness, filthiness, and on and on, have any place in the life of the Children of Light? Can we even go so far as to ignore them? Are we instead to expose them in an effort to bring them to repentance?

Is our relationship with Christ reflected in our relationship with our spouse and children? Does spousal abuse and child abuse reflect a broken relationship with Christ? What must be healed first, before the correct family relationship can be restored?

Dr. Franzmann concludes his comments on these chapters as follows: “God’s call makes the Church God’s outpost in an alien and still hostile world. The Christian’s life is therefore a life of battle with the powers of Satan, a battle for which God gives them strength and equips them with divine weapons; these weapons they must take up and use with constant and vigilant prayer.” How do you see these comments applying to your life?