

Week 6 Bible Study: Observation Skills Applied to Ephesians 4

This week we want to apply the 17 Observation Skills of Content & Context to Ephesians Chapter 4. We don't have time to demonstrate all 17 observation methods, but I want to highlight a few.

Content Skill #3 Identify the Obvious Names

Jesus – 28 times **You/We/Your – 26 times** **God/Father – 8 times** **Spirit – 4 times**

This passage is clearly, directly and specifically about Jesus Christ and his redeemed church.

Content Skill #5 Mark Key Words & Phrases

Key phrases in first third (1/3):

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **7** But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Theme from 1st third phrases (1/3): **Believers unifying in God/Christ.**

Key phrases in second third (2/3):

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Theme from 2nd third phrases (2/3): **Believers unifying in doctrine/thinking.**

Key phrases in final third (3/3):

22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23** and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24** and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. **25** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Theme from final third phrases (3/3): **Believers unifying in living/acting both positively and negatively.**

Content Skill #10 Discern the Main Theme

Unity of the believers in their (1) understanding of their position in Christ, (2) unity in their doctrine/thinking about the world and the truth and (3) unity in their living out of the truth.

Context Skill #1 Answer Context Discovery Questions

Who said it?

When was it said?

Context Skill #1 Answer Context Discovery Questions Cont.

Who was this written to?

Cultural considerations?

Context Skill #2 Outline the Book/Chapter 4

Paragraph 1: Verses 1-6. **Paragraph 2:** Verses 7-16. **Paragraph 3:** Verses 17-19.

Paragraph 4: Verses 20-24. **Paragraph 5:** Verses 25-32.

Context Skill #3 Summarize the Book

Paul challenges the believers to (1) walk in a manner that is worthy of their incredible position in Christ. He tells them that they will walk more obediently → (2) the more they collectively understand what has happened to them in Christ at salvation and → (3) when they are collectively unified under sound doctrine, which is aided by appointed help. (4) He concludes by laying out specific ways of walking worthily and unworthily.

Context Skill #5 Summarize each Paragraph

Paragraph 1: Verses 1-6 Paul challenges the believers to walk in a manner that is worthy of their incredible position in Christ. Paul emphasizes that though there are many different believers there is one hope and faith, in one Lord and in one God and Father for all who believe.

Paragraph 2: Verses 7-16 Paul tells the believers that God gave them specific gifts and people to help them in their walk and growth. These people are to use their gifts to unify the body of believers in their knowledge of the Son of God, so that they will be able to withstand the schemes and mentality of the world.

Paragraph 3: Verses 17-19 Paul tells the believers that they should not walk the way that they used to, as unbelievers. The minds of the unbeliever are still darkened with sin and ignorance.

Paragraph 4: Verses 20-24 Paul tells the believers that they should walk according to the new knowledge they have about Christ, according to the truth. They are to put off their old way of living and put on their new way of life which is holy and pure.

Paragraph 5: Verses 25-32 Paul lays out specific ways that the believers can put off their old way of life and how they can put on their new way of life. He lists many negative deeds that are to cease and many positive deeds that are to be pursued.

Context Skill #7 Identify Paragraph Theme(s)

Paragraph 1: Walking in step with the one true God.

Paragraph 2: Developing unity in the knowledge of the Son of God.

Paragraph 3: Refusing to live according to the world and sin.

Paragraph 4: Living according to the truth.

Paragraph 5: The misdeeds of the flesh vs. the acts of obedience.