

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
LOVE AMONG THE THORNS
Ephesians 4:1-5:2

1. God calls sinners to new life in Christ – in fellowship with each other in His church.

Ephesians 4:1 – Live now in keeping with God's calling in Christ.
(no longer like non-Christians – vv.17-19).

Where are we to live this new life? **4:2-16**

In fellowship with each other in Christ's church.

2. We have a problem: we are still sinners!

What is implied about us in Paul's various admonitions, for example,
Vs.2?

vv. 25-31?

It is God who puts people in His church as He pleases! **1 Cor.12:18**

We can be a real briar patch – all our thorns poking each other.

But that is where we are told to

"walk in love as Christ has loved" us, 5:2. – among the thorns.

3. What this tempts us to.

React to sin with sin, react to irritation with anger,
respond to other people's thorns with our own thorns
OR by just going away.

We have another Problem: we want lives of peace, without hassles.
Repent!

4. Love each other in concrete ways

Constantly turn your focus to Christ and His persistent love for you in
your persistent sinning.

Then – as you ask forgiveness for your sinful reactions, pray for grace

To be humble

To be gentle

To be patient & forbearing

To speak truth in love

To be honest & truthful (25) – in love

To deal with anger rather than letting it festery (26)

To become a giver instead of a taker (28)

To stop badmouthing people and speak to build them up (29)

To put away ALL bitterness, wrath, anger, malice

& put on kindness, compassion, a forgiving spirit – as you have
been forgiven by God in Christ. (31,32)

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ... ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose. **1 Corinthians 12**