

Like a Hand in a Glove, Part 1¹

Eph 4 — It's amazing we can see this as those who have been purchased, redeemed, bought with a price from our slavery in Egypt by our Master's work of shedding His blood and going into death. He is our substitute in that sense, our sacrifice like the animal sacrifices of old. He suffered agony in death.

Eph 4:15 — We're set apart to be everything our Father wants us to be. Speaking the truth to one another in love is the requirement for this. To *speak* in Eph 4:15 is more than just talking. It is how you speak and what you speak, just as serving is not only what you do, but how you do it. That expresses one's glory. A lot of people can do all kinds of things, but without our Master's love it is useless and doesn't cause us to grow up into the Head and become like Him. In order to speak the truth in love and to grow up into Him it takes surrendering to Him.

Eph 4:15 — *Speaking* is #226; "speaking the truth in love" means to make it one's business or vocation to express the reality of love and not to feign² it. The same word is used in Gal 4:16, meaning not only speaking the truth, but presenting an action as the truth and not a counterfeit.³ Eph 4:15 is required for each and every one of us — both to speak and to grow up — to speak to one another so we can all grow up together. Our lives must convey (communicate, transmit, express) truth in all things, in everything we say and do, as it speaks to our brothers and sisters. We are continually speaking, dealing, living the truth in love for one another (Jn 13:34-35).

We are required to grow up in every way in all things and all aspects, to grow up into the Head, which obviously we have not done yet. Eph 4:16 — The whole Body in its various parts or members must grow, joined and knit together by the joints and

¹ See also *Like a Hand in a Glove, Part 2* (2005.08.30-P01).

² *Feign* — to make a pretense of.

³ *Counterfeit* — an imitation of something with the intention to deceive.

ligaments with which it is supplied when each member works properly in all his functions or works (Eph 2:10). Thus it grows to maturity, building itself up in love (Eph 2:21-22).

In Him, in fellowship with one another, you are being built into this structure to form a fixed abode (dwelling place) for the eternal home of God in the Spirit (Rev 21:3; Eph 1:23; 1 Cor 15:28; Eph 3:21). It starts with Eph 4:1-3 and 11-16. Verse 13 — That we may arrive at mature manhood, the completeness of our personality, which is no less than Messiah Himself, so that verse 14 is not the case for us, as it is for Christianity, living as they do, like the Gentiles (verse 17). But we are as verse 16, as we grow up in every aspect into our Head.

To become like Him is our goal (1 Jn 3:1-3). It's a process of becoming all we can be in this age so we'll be like our Master in the next age. We are saved, but we are not like Him yet. Our individual lives in the Body must express truth in all ways or things — how we speak and how we serve or work — so we grow up in all aspects of our personality. It is like a glove of five fingers. He must fill all parts of the glove, so we will not just be an empty glove. He must enter all parts of our personality. Our soul is made up of our mind or intellect (2 Cor 4:3-4), our emotions, and our will. These three determine our social interactions with our brothers and sisters.

We are spirit, soul, and body. The five fingers of our glove are: spiritual, mental, emotional, social, and physical — our total personality. We must become like Him in every way in order to be as 1 Jn 3:1-3, that we can see Him face-to-face. Seeing Him as He is, we see ourselves (2 Cor 3:18), only if He can enter all our faculties, as a glove with five fingers can be entered by Him. Or perhaps we are the hand and He is the glove, and we must put Him on. Since we are baptized into Him, we put Him on. He is a Body to be entered into by baptism. We are His Body, His bodily parts, as 1 Cor 12:12-20.

The universe will be filled with people. The Holy as the Body of God will rule over the nations, those who are not redeemed and who died for their own sins. Then they

were resurrected and given eternal life in the nations, because they could pay for their sins in death. We are required to be qualified to rule with our Master. If we are not qualified we will go through a process that will last 1000 years to become like our Master — the second death for believers. But we can be purified in this age if we care to.

Our spiritual, mental, emotional, and social aspects have to come to be like our Master. His emotions were pretty good. He got angry, but He didn't sin. He took a whip and cleansed the temple. Anger is not always bad. It is a secondary emotion that can mobilize you to do something, like getting your child off the road. This is not anger that hurts, but anger that helps. Our emotions have to be aroused, but never get out of hand. They must always be under the control of our will.

As far as our social development is concerned, we are in the best place on earth. Our Master put us in community so our social aspect could be developed. If we just lived on the side of a hill, we'd be social dwarfs. People in the world get high and then they are social; they lose their inhibitions. Our Master wasn't talking about this kind of social interaction. We can look in each other's eyes because there is no guilt.

We make it our business to speak. It's our vocation to express the reality of love and not feign, pretend, fake it, or be a counterfeit. It's our vocation, our employment. In this place we are employed to forbear with those who are not so humble. Some people won't humble themselves. So we humbly forbear with them so they can be humble. A humble wife by being silent can win her husband, just as a slave with his master.

Our emotions may be down here, but socially we are up there. It's like an unbalanced wheel. We have to be balanced together. Our spirit, soul, and body have to be in unity. All the aspects of our being have to be in balance. Our Master has to enter into our gloves, or we can put Him on. If you don't put Him on you can fake it for a while. But then certain things will show you how you really are, like when patience is required. You can fake love, joy, and peace, but not patience. The Holy Spirit shows us where we are at.

Gal 4:16 — Do we become each other's enemy just because we tell each other the truth? We should become someone's friend when we do this. It's a matter of the way you say it. It mustn't be in a demeaning or condescending way. This is our employment, our vocation. You chose it when you were baptized. Are you going to do it? I think it is a pretty good job. We can work our fingers to the bone, but it does no good if there is no love. We have to express the truth in love and not feign it.

Eph 4:15 is required of each and every one. If you're redeemed it's required of you. You can't do it unless you have the Holy Spirit. We have to let our lives express the truth, and deal with one another in a loving way, in a true way in love, so we can all grow up in every way into our Master. This is your job. It's a nice job. We have to do it all together, so we can be something our Father has wanted for trillions of years. He didn't make the universe for nothing. You can barely see it now, but He will fill it up with humanity.

Eph 4:17 — If you don't want to live as the world you have to be set apart in community. You can't offer your body any other way except to be conformed to the Body of Messiah and its culture, so we can be a light and salt to our neighbors. It might provoke them to ask about the hope in us. "How do you do it? I can't do it with just me and my four, and there are a hundred of you."

We are to be one like the Father and the Son. Are we one like the Father and the Son? If not there is something wrong. We haven't fully developed in our social aspects. We might be a little retarded. Maybe we are late bloomers, but we are developing. In some aspects we might be early; in some we might be late. We have to grow up in every aspect. He has to fill every finger of our personality so we can be well coordinated and pick things up. The thumb is in coordination with the rest of the fingers. There is a purpose for your little finger. He didn't create it for nothing.

There is no way for anyone to be redeemed outside of the Body. And no one is saved unless he is in the Body. "I want you to love one another as I have loved you. Then

everyone will know that you are My disciples” (Jn 13:34-35). And love is that we lay down our life for each other (1 Jn 3:16).

Barak — I am thankful for this teaching. It is so clear. I won't increase if I get up in the morning and set my mind on increasing socially or mentally. We have to be surrendered so that all of our Master can live in us and through us. It's a wonderful thing that our calling is to love. That will develop us. As we give our being to build up the Body we will be built. Everyone is ahead in some areas, and everyone is behind in other areas. It takes the whole Body to be well rounded.

Baruch — I never thought of the different aspects of our personality as a glove. You can't put two hands in one glove. If there is a hand in a glove that hand has control. If there is anything else in there it has to come out. This illustration stimulates us to think about the five aspects of our personality, and whether there is anything that fills our mind, emotions, or our social behavior other than our Master. Every aspect has to be like our Master. When He is filling the glove completely — our soul, mind, and body, our community, the whole nation — then He will be able to return, when nothing else is filling us except He.

ha-êmeq — I have a translation (New Living Translation) that reads a little differently in Eph 4:16. It says, “Under His direction, the whole Body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow so that the whole Body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

If we all do our part this will happen. There is not one part of Baruch's baby's body that is huge while another is tiny. They all grow together so the body can function perfectly. She is not trying to do it. It just happens. She couldn't figure out how to make herself grow. It's the same for the Body of Messiah. We have to grow together. It has to come from our Father. You just have to look at a baby and you know there is a God.

If we put our hand into a glove it has to be empty. One time just before we came here, I tried to put my boots on at the Morning Star Ranch and there was something in it. It was yucky. There was a frog in it and it was quite big. Just imagine the feeling. It doesn't belong there. Our Master Yahshua is supposed to fill my life. Nothing should be in there. If there is anything else it's an intruder.

None of us here have our own agenda. If we all do our special work we will grow up together. It is so wonderful, so full of love. As long as we all do this we will all grow up.

Almah — Sin is selfishness, bettering yourself at the expense of others. That's the teaching of the Nicolaitans. If I just focus on myself, my brother is left with his back exposed to the enemy. Then he feels vulnerable and he starts looking out for himself. It's a chain reaction. That's how the First Edah declined. People started looking out for themselves. Then others saw it and felt insecure, wondering whether they'd be taken care of. But if we all give ourselves to what we're called to do, then the whole Body grows.

Havah — It only works if everyone does his part. Our Father doesn't give me grace to do someone else's job. In Eph 4:16 it talks about the effective working of every part. If we are not doing our part, it's not effective. I want to humble myself and do my part, and not try to do someone else's.

Gamaliel — Our Father has chosen those who are needy and not those who are all grown up. He wants people to be just like Him, but we have to grow up to get there by hearing and speaking the truth. I might even ask our Father to show me what to do, and then a brother comes and I think, "No, that's not the answer." Or my brother corrects me and I think it's not love. But it's our Father's business to make sure I grow up. The truth is lovely. It's love that I can grow up. I want to make sure to receive my brother no matter how he comes.

Zahav — Speaking is not just words out of our mouth, but it's action. As it says in Isa 49:6, it's too small a thing to just be the twelve tribes, but we have to be a light to all the nations. There would be no need for the Body or for the light if it were just a matter of speaking. Our Father could have it all written out, but what affects people is love and humility. If I don't deal with the trash in my life, and then try to go to others about their trash, it's just hypocrisy. If I humble myself then the truth can come into my life. But if I don't do this, I can't just go around and tell others the truth. That's not our Father. Our Father wants us to show each other in love.