

# **Ephesians**

## **Introduction & Background**

### **TITLE**

The letter is addressed to the church in the city of Ephesus, capital of the Roman province of Asia (Asia Minor, modern Turkey). Because the name Ephesus is not mentioned in every early manuscript, some scholars believe the letter was an encyclical, intended to be circulated and read among all the churches in Asia Minor and was simply sent first to believers in Ephesus.

### **AUTHOR AND DATE**

There is no indication that the authorship of Paul should be in question. He is indicated as author in the opening salutation (1:1; 3:1). The letter was written from prison in Rome (Acts 28:16-31) sometime between A.D. 60-62 and is, therefore, often referred to as a prison epistle (along with Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon). It may have been composed almost contemporaneously with Colossians and initially sent with that epistle and Philemon by Tychicus (Eph. 6:21, 22; Col. 4:7, 8).

### **BACKGROUND AND SETTING**

It is likely that the gospel was first brought to Ephesus by Priscilla and Aquila, an exceptionally gifted couple (see Acts 18:26) who were left there by Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:18, 19). Located at the mouth of the Cayster River, on the east side of the Aegean Sea, the city of Ephesus was perhaps best known for its magnificent temple of Artemis, or Diana, one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world. It was also an important political, educational, and commercial centre, ranking with Alexandria in Egypt, and Antioch of Pisidia, in southern Asia Minor.

The fledgling church begun by Priscilla and Aquila was later firmly established by Paul on his third missionary journey (Acts 19) and was pastored by him for some 3 years. After Paul left, Timothy pastored the congregation for perhaps a year and a half, primarily to counter the false teaching of a few influential men (such as Hymenaeus and Alexander), who were probably elders in the congregation there (1 Tim 1:3, 20). Because of those men, the church at Ephesus was plagued by “fables and endless genealogies” (1 Tim. 1:4) and by such ascetic and unscriptural ideas as the forbidding of marriage and abstaining from certain foods (1 Tim 4:3). Although those false teachers did not rightly understand Scripture, they propounded their ungodly interpretations with confidence (1 Ti. 1:7), which produced in the church harmful “disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith” (1 Tim. 1:4) Thirty years or so later, Christ gave to the apostle John a letter for this church indicating its people had left their first love for Him (Rev. 2:1-9).

## **HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL THEMES**

The first 3 chapters are theological, emphasising N.T. doctrine, whereas the last 3 chapters are practical and focus on Christian behaviour. Perhaps, above all, this is a letter of encouragement and admonition, written to remind believers of their immeasurable blessings in Jesus Christ; and not only to be thankful for those blessings, but also to live in a manner worthy of them. Despite, and partly even because of, a Christian's great blessings in Jesus Christ, he is sure to be tempted by Satan to self-satisfaction and complacency. It was for that armour supplied to them through God's Word and by His Spirit (6:10-17) and of their need for vigilant and persistent prayer (6:18).

A key theme of the letter is the mystery (meaning a heretofore unrevealed truth) of the church, which is "that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel" (3:6), a truth completely hidden from the OT saints (cf. 3:5,9). All believers in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, are equal before the Lord as His children as citizens of His eternal kingdom, a marvellous truth that only believers of this present age possess. Paul also speaks of the mystery of the church as the bride of Christ (5:32; cf. Rev. 21:9).

A major truth emphasized is that of the church as Christ's present spiritual, earthly body, also a distinct and formerly unrevealed truth about God's people. This metaphor depicts the church, not as an organization, but as a living organism composed of mutually related and interdependent parts. Christ is Head of the body and the Holy Spirit is its lifeblood, as it were. The body functions through the faithful use of its members' various spiritual gifts, sovereignly and uniquely bestowed by the Holy Spirit on each believer.

Other major themes include the riches and fullness of blessing to believers. Paul writes of "the riches of His (God's) grace" (1:17), "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (3:8) and "the riches of His glory" (3:16). Paul admonished believers to "be filled with all the fullness of God" (3:19), to "come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (4:13), and to "be filled with the Spirit" (5:18). Their riches in Christ are based on His grace (1:2, 6,7; 2:7), His peace (1:2), His will (1:5), His pleasure and purpose (1:9), His glory (1:12, 14), His calling and inheritance (1:18), His power and strength (1:19; 6:10), His love (2:4), His workmanship (2:10), His Holy Spirit (3:16), His offering sacrifice (5:2), and His armour (6:11,13). The word "riches" is used 5 times in this letter; "grace" is used 12 times; "glory" 8 times; "fullness" or "filled" 6 times; and the key phrase "in Christ" (or "in Him") some 12 times.

## **INTERPRETIVE CHALLENGES**

The general theology of Ephesians is direct, unambiguous, and presents no ideas or interpretations whose meanings are seriously contended. There are, however, some texts that require careful thoughts to rightly interpret, namely: 2:8, in which one must decide if the salvation or the faith is the gift; 4:5, in which the type of baptism must be discerned; 4:8, in its relationship to Psalm 68:18

# OUTLINE

## **I. Salutation (1:1, 2)**

## **II. God's Purpose for the Church (1-3-3:13)**

*a. Predestination in Christ (1:3-6a)*

*b. Redemption in Christ (1.6b-10)*

*c. Inheritance in Christ (1:11-14)*

*d. Resources in Christ (1;15-23)*

*e. New life in Christ (2:1-10)*

*f. Unity in Christ (2:11-3:13)*

## **III. God's Fullness for the Church (3:14-21)**

## **IV. God's Plan for Faithful Living in the Church (4:1-6)**

## **V. God's Son Endows and Builds the Church (4:7-16)**

## **VI. God's Pattern and Principles for Members of the Church (4:17-32)**

## **VII. God's Standards for Faithfulness in the Church (5:1-21)**

*a. Walking in Love (5:1-7)*

*b. Living in Light (5:8-14)*

*c. Walking in Wisdom and Sobriety (5:15-18a)*

*d. Filled with God's Spirit (5:18b-21)*

## **VIII. God's Standards for Authority and Submission in the Church (5:22-6:9)**

*a. Husbands and Wives (5:22-33)*

*b. Parents and Children (6:1-4)*

*c. Employers and Employees (6:5-9)*

## **XI. God's Provision for His Children's Spiritual Battles (6:10-17)**

*a. The Believer's Warfare (6:10-13)*

*b. The Believer's Armour (6:14-17)*

## **X. God's Appeal for Prayer in the Church (6:18-20)**

## **XI. Benediction (6:21-24)**

# *Ephesians*

## Chapter One

### Study One

**Focus: Greetings to Members of Christ's Body, the church**

**Text: Read Ephesians 1:1-2** (please everyone reads the whole chapter to get a broader picture)

### **Expected Outcomes: For the whole Chapter One**

- A. To understand the blessings we have "in Christ"
- B. To express our praises and worship the Father because of these blessings we have in Christ.
- C. To see myself well prepared before I go to Bible Study.
- D. To understand these key words: Apostle, Grace
- E. Memorize verse: 1:4

**Note:** The greatest blessing we have is that we are "in Christ" individually and as a Church. "In" Christ we are and have all these blessings. It shows us the eternal counsels and purposes of God the Father. Paul has two main prayers for us: That we may have the light to know and the strength to know. Christ is exalted as the Head of the Church, His new Body. (In Colossians this is further developed)

We have to read from other Books (cross references) to further enlighten us about some terms and phrases. Bible study leaders or facilitators may do some preparation by reading David Pratte's Commentary on Ephesians in [www.gospelway.com/sales](http://www.gospelway.com/sales), or others

### **Study questions:**

**Note:** This Study One is a little difficult, but rewarding. We do cross reference it with other verses in Scriptures to give us Paul's background and ministry. Here we go....

**Read 1: 1-2 Paul's Greetings/Salutation, and other background references.** (This is important to know, that is why we will look at other related references in other books).

1. How did this letter get to the church in Ephesus? (see 6:21-22 and Colossians 4:7)

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2. What is the purpose of the letter “carrier”? (Col.4:8-9)

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3. How did the Gospel reach Ephesus? (Enjoy the fascinating story about the founding of this church)  
(See Acts 18:18 to chapter 20:38)

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4. What are the circumstances that led to Paul’s imprisonment and kept him “in chains” for years when he wrote Ephesians and other epistles? Acts 21:17-36

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5. In this Epistle, what can you gather about Paul’s character and feelings for the Christians in Ephesus? (1:1; 1:16; 3:1-4; 3:7-9; 4:1; 6:19-20)

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6. On what authority or position does Paul write to the church in Ephesus and how could this be significant for what he is about to say?

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***Some helps:*** A summary of what the Bible teaches about the apostles, the kind of work they did? What qualifications did they have? Here is David E. Pratte’s commentary on Ephesians chapter 1, pp12-13, all quoted here.

**Evidence that Paul was an apostle:**

\*“He claimed it (Eph.1:1)

\*He spoke by direct guidance of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 14:37; 2:10-16; Eph.3:3-5; 2Cor.12:7)

\*His claim to apostleship was confirmed by miracles, the signs of an apostle. (2 Cor.12:12; Acts14:3,8-18; 13:6-12; 19:8-20)

\*He was an eyewitness of the resurrected Christ (Acts 9:1-18; 22:14-15; 26:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; 9:1)

Paul was an eyewitness “born out of due time” (1 Cor. 15:8-9). Nevertheless, he did see Jesus after His resurrection and could serve in that primary role of an apostle.

\*Paul could lay hands on others to give them miraculous powers

(Acts 19:1-7; Rom.1:8-11; 2 Tim.1:6)

\*Jesus chose Paul and commanded him to be a witness of His resurrection (Acts.26:13-19)”

7. In v.1b Paul calls the believers as “saints.” What is a saint? Proof? What is the biblical concept of a saint? Compare this to the ideas many people have of a saint.

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8. Why do you think Paul greeted the Church “grace to you and peace from God? Could this be the whole theme of Ephesians? Why or why not?

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9. What is grace and peace? How do we receive these blessings? What is the difference between “peace with God” and “peace of God”

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## **Additional Application**

As you begin this study, what are some goals you would like to work on?

***Check one or two from the list below and add anything specific in the box***

- To get to know God in a more personal way
- To understand what I believe as a Christian and where I stand on issues
- To develop my skills in Bible Study and personal devotions.
- To belong to a small group that will support me in my growth
- To think through my values and priorities in light of God's will
- To wrestle with the next step in my spiritual journey with others who care

***What are you willing to commit to in the way of disciplines during the time you are in this study?***

- To complete the Bible study home assignment before the group meets
- To attend the group meetings except in cases of emergency
- To share in leading the group – taking my turn in rotation
- To keep confidential anything that is shared in the group
- To reach out to others who are not in a group and invite them in
- To attend the teaching or leaders' session.



## **Study Two**

**Focus: Blessings for Members of Christ’s Body, the church**

**Text: Read Ephesians 1:3-14**

**Expected Outcomes:** (the same as study one as this is for the whole chapter)

- A. To express our praises and worship the Father because of these blessings we have in Christ.
- B. To see myself well prepared before I go to Bible Study.
- C. To understand these key words: Heavenly realms, Holy, Predestines, Sonship, Redemption, Lavished, Mystery, in conformity, Seal, Deposit
- D. Memorize 1:8-10

**Note:** These verses and study reveal to us the eternal counsels and purposes of God the Father to “Gather together in one all things in Christ.” Count the word “all” in chapter one.

### **Study Questions:**

- j. v3. Who is the source of spiritual blessings? Where are they found? Why is God to be praised?

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- k. What does Paul mean when he said “in heavenly places?”

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- l. **Special assignment for everyone.** What does it mean to be “in Christ,” and how does one come into Christ? (John 17:20-23; 2Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27)

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m. v4 When did God choose us? What does He want for us? What is His attitude to us?

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n. Vv 4-6 God choose us-for what purpose?

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o. v.6 Make a list of what 'we' do. Why do we do those things? Make a list of what He has given us. How do we receive those gifts?

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p. v.7 What two benefits do we gain from Christ? What difference might that make for us?

q. v.8 What else did God give? How do those gifts come to us?

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r. Vv.9-10 What is the mystery which has been revealed to us?

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Other questions might help: What did God decide? How was Christ part of that? What emotion did God express? What will God do? When will He do it? What is the part of Christ in that? What do you think about all that?

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s. Vv.11,13 Who do you suppose the “we” in verse 11 refers to...compared to the “you” in verse 13? The “we” refers to \_\_\_\_\_ The “you” refers to

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t. v.11 Why did God also choose us? Describe the fact about God's plan. What does God use in His plan? Are you amazed about all that?

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u. v.13 What two steps brought the Gentiles into the kingdom?

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10. vv13-14 What guarantee do we have that we are part of God's inheritance?

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11. Go back and SUMMARISE the great things God has done for us. Divide them according to the persons of the Godhead. For example:

God the Father \_\_\_\_\_

God the Son \_\_\_\_\_

God the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these activities are PAST, which are PRESENT, and which are Future? (colour them if you wish)

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### **Additional Application**

- a. Go back over Chapter 1 and underline these words (3x) *“for the praise of his glory”* and these words (3x) *“in accordance to his pleasure and will”*. On the basis of these phrases, try to put into your own words your answer to the question: “What is the purpose of man?”

The main purpose of man is

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(Please complete the sentence; every one might have a different answer, share them to everyone in the group).

- b. How does it feel that you were chosen before creation?.....share please.....
- c. You were chosen to be holy and blameless in His sight. What was your first reaction to this? Please don't be embarrassed to share...
- d. What is the hardest thing for you to understand about God's plan for your life?
- e. Do you think you can abort God's plan?
- f. How is God's game plan going right now?
- g. Getting personal: Sometimes we experience mountain peaks of joy and success in life, and there are other times we are sinking in the lowest valley of pain and failures----but as true believers who love the Lord Jesus we can always sing: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” You may close your BS in this manner, if you wish.

## **Study Three**

**Focus: Prayer on behalf of Members of Christ's Body, the church**

**Text: Read Ephesians 1:15-23**

**Expected Outcome** (the same as study one except key words and memory verse)

- a. To understand these key words: Revelation, Holy people, Dominion
- b. Memorize 1:16

**Note:** Try to notice Paul's prayer in this section and see Christ exalted position as the Head of the Church, His new Body.

### **Study Questions**

24. v. 15 What are two characteristics of the Christians in Ephesus?

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25. v. 16 Make a list of what Paul did. What do you think of that?

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26. vv. 17-18 Make a list of the things Paul asked for these young Christians?

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Will it make any difference in your life if these prayer requests are answered?

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27. vv. 18-19 What are three things Paul wants them to know?

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28. vv.19-20 To demonstrate what he means by “power,” what are two events in the life of Christ that Paul calls to mind? Whose power is this (see. V.17)? What experience might you have of this power?

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29. v. 21 What has Jesus Christ been given authority over?

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30. v. 22 Make a list of what God did.

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31. What is Jesus' relationship to the Church?

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32. v. 23 Make a list of what you learn about the church. What is the church?

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**Additional Application:**

A. We are a special people, only by God's grace. My prayer for you all.

"... I gave thanks for you...I ask that God will give you the spirit of wisdom...and revelation, so that you may know Him better."

"...I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you know the hope to which He has called you..."

"...and that you may know His incomparably great power for us who believe." Amen.

B. Please share your experience in the 'My prayer for you all' (above) when you prayed about two or three friends.

C. In your prayer life, do you tend to concentrate on 'praise' or 'problems'? Or what you want, rather than what you need.

D. In the light of the power available to Christians (v.19), what is your favorite excuse for "operating on one or two cylinders?"

E. I am part of the Body of Christ—what is my contribution to build his Body up for His glory?

F. Getting personal: Please don't just pray for your Christian friends to know earthly peace and prosperity, health and joy (I'm not talking about prosperity gospel as other preachers tried to teach). Pray for them to experience the great privileges of knowing our Heavenly Father better, of knowing our blessed hope, and of knowing the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering (See Philippians 3:10) and of knowing that God has committed Himself to us to bring us to glory.



# *Ephesians*

## Chapter Two

### **Study Four**

**Focus: Salvation by Grace and how we are fitted to be members of Christ's Body, the church**

**Text: Read Ephesians 2:1-10**

### **Expected Outcome:**

- A. To see God's work in forming His Body, the Church
- B. That we might see ourselves constantly, alive and a forgiven people, because of the riches of His grace.
- C. That we may know His special plan for us according to v.10—because we are His new creation.
- D. That we might see the blessedness of what it means to be associated in the body of Christ, and be actively involved in its activities.
- E. To understand these keys words: Transgressions, The ruler of the kingdom of the air, gratifying, flesh, wrath
- F. Memorize 2:8-9

**Note:** Salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. God's work is clearly seen here forming the body, the members of which were dead in sins, but have been forgiven, and made alive, and seated with Christ.

### **Study Questions:**

1. v.1 How did Paul describe everyone's life? Why? What was the cause?

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2. v.2 Before God's intervention, what three influences dominated our lives? What do you think about all that?

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3. v.3 When a person is living under the control of the (evil) spirit, what two ways will this show? What is your reaction to this?

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4. v.4 What is the cause of the turnaround in our lives?

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5. Vv. 5-6 What are the three things that God has done for us?

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What is grace? \_\_\_\_\_

6. v.7 Why did God do this for us? How did He show that to us?

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7. v.8 What is the basis for God's kindness?

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8. v. 9 What did we do to earn this?

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9. v. 10 Explain these words "Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone."

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10. v10 What are we and what is our purpose? What can you expect?

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### **Additional Application**

- a. Try to make this v.10 personal. Write a paragraph, in your own words—the way you would explain this verse to a close friend. You may write it in the first person using "I"
- b. Answer these personal questions, but try to have a sense of humour. In your BS ask who has the most speeding tickets? What's the closest experience you had to dying? How did this affect your relationship with God?
- c. If you are a building inspector, how would you grade the quality of "workmanship" in your life? (V.10).
- d. If you write a sign board about your life which one is the most suitable: "Under New Management", "Construction ahead. Proceed at your own risk." "Please be patient, God is at work here."
- e. Getting personal: We often sing the hymn, "Amazing Grace" in our services. If you're sincerely honest- how amazing is grace to you? How much of a difference could God's grace make to how you view your: assurance of salvation, weaknesses, doubts, prayers, discouragement, successes, disappointments, perspective of the future

## **Study Five**

**Focus: One and Blessed membership of Christ's Body, the church**

**Text: Read Ephesians 2: 11-22**

**Expected Outcome** (the same as study four, except memory verse and key words)

- a. To understand these key words: Gentiles/ uncircumcised, The circumcision/Israel, covenant of the promise, the Law, reconcile, cornerstone
- b. Memorized 2:14

**Note:** Notice the term "remember" in verses 11 and 12. Where the sweetness of forgiveness is, there is the sadness of remembrance.

### **Study Questions:**

1. v.11 Who are the two types of people referred to here?

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How did the Jews distinguish themselves from other people?

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2. v.12 What are five strikes against the Gentiles? Are these true about you?

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3. v.13 How did Jesus change all this?

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4. v. 14 How did this affect our relationship to members of the special covenant (the circumcised)? What is different now?

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5. vv. 15-16 What are the three things Christ accomplished on the cross?

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6. v.16, Who is this one group of people (see VV14-15)? What would happen to this group? How would that happen? What would be the result?

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7. v.19-22 How has this affected our relationship with God?

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# *Ephesians*

## Chapter Three

### **Study Six**

**Focus: Gentiles have a portion and place in Christ's Body, the church**

**Text: Read 3:1-13**

**Expected outcome:**

- A. That we might embrace the truth that this teaching concerning the Gentiles was specially revealed to Paul by the Lord.
- B. To appreciate Paul's preaching to the Gentiles (to us who are not Jews), because it was the cause of his imprisonment. This calls for dedication of our lives to the Lord.
- C. To know the "mystery" of Christ revealed to us.
- D. To learn more-how to pray.
- E. To understand these key words: Prisoner of Christ, administration, manifold, Rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, steward, dispensation
- F. Memorize: 3:13

### **Study Questions:**

1. Why is Paul in prison when he writes this letter to the Ephesians? (see Acts 21:17-29; and Acts 22:21-24)

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2. v. 1 How was Paul "the prisoner of Jesus Christ for the sake of you Gentiles?"

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3. v. 2 What has God ‘given’ to Paul? What is the “stewardship of God’s grace?” (in NKJV stewardship is called dispensation).

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4. v.3 How was the mystery made known to Paul? What is our modern day understanding of the term “mystery?”

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5. v.4 What will you “understand”? (see also 2:13-18; 3:3-6) What do you think about all that?

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6. v.5 Who had been kept in the dark concerning this secret? Why?

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7. v.5 Define “Revelation.” Who revealed the mystery, and to whom was it revealed?

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8. v.6 What are three effects/results for the Gentiles who are brought into Christ? (These are the mysteries)

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9. vv.7-9 What and how did Paul feel in this particular mission? Was it a great privilege?

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10.v.9 What was Paul trying to make everyone see?

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11.v.9 What was created through Christ?

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12.vv.10-11 To whom is this wisdom known? (Think on how does the church make known God's wisdom?) What is the mission of the Church?

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13. v. 12 How do we have boldness and access God with confidence?

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14. v.12 What can we do? What did Christ give us to help? How do you react to this?

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**Additional Application**

- A. Do you think Paul was putting himself down when he called himself “less than the least of all the saints?” Do you feel that sometimes?
- B. Does it blow your mind that you have been privileged to understand the “mystery” that has been secret for ages before Christ?
- C. In this study of chapter 3:1-13 do you think you have learned something ‘deep’ what the Father did through Christ?
- D. Some might paint Paul (like some popular novel) as a weird, mentally disturbed, neurotic person, because he writes hard things. Or was it the Holy Spirit inspiring him? Remember the term- “REVELATION?”
- E. Getting personal: Are you easily discouraged because sometimes-- it seems God does not make sense? Too many trials and sufferings? Are you able to understand Paul’s priorities and allow them to shape your response to hardship?

## **Study Seven**

**Focus: Paul's prayer for Christ's beloved Body, the church**

**Text: Read 3:14-21**

**Expected outcome:** The same as study six, but here the emphasis is on prayer.

A. To understand these key words: Established, surpasses, to the measure

B. Memorize 3:20-21 (this is also a benediction)

### **Study Questions:**

1. vv. 14-15 and 2: 19-20 What is Paul pointing out in the way he begins his prayer?

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2. What are the four requests that Paul makes? (The word *“that”* repeated in 3:16-19).

a. vv. 16-17a

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b.v.17b

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c. vv 18-19a

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d. v. 19b

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3. According to 3:16-19 which have been listed above, answer these questions:

A. What strength does God provide, and what are some ways He provides it?

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B. What does it mean for Christ to dwell in us? How does He do it?

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C. Explain and apply the sense in which love roots and grounds us.

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D. What do we need to know? How can you know it, if it passes knowledge?

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E. What does Paul mean by “width, length, depth, and height”?

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F. What may we be filled with? What does it mean?

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4. v. 20 What can God do and how?

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5. v. 21 Describe what the church should do. How long? What difference might that make?

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6. v. 21 Deep thinking: Would this be so if the Church like MCFA was not essential to salvation? Are you part of the Body (MCFA local body)? How committed are you in this local Church?

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## Additional Applications

- a. What could you learn from Paul's prayer for your own prayer life? Please share...
- b. Are you more occupied with problems and daily needs-than spending a few minutes in solitude in prayer?
- c. What is the biggest thing you asked God for in the last week, month, or year?
- d. How do you describe your prayer life and Bible Meditation - Feasting on God or fasting?
- e. Where do you need the power of God to work in your life right now?
- f. In this prayer (3:14-21), Paul is talking to a God that many of us have reduced to the level of our own human understanding.

Read again the verses and take a moment and compare the assumptions in this prayer about God with your own assumptions. How do we do this?

First, check the assumptions about God that you find in this prayer. Then... Compare these assumptions to your own assumptions.

- o ALL POWERFUL: God has the power to do anything He wills to do.
  - o ALL ENCOMPASSING: God is ever-present at any moment in time.
  - o ALL KNOWING: God knows everything because He was the architect of the universe.
  - o TOTALLY SOVEREIGN: God is the supreme ruler of the universe.
  - o PERFECT IN HOLINESS: God is absolute purity and righteousness.
  - o PERFECTLY JUST: God is the moral judge of the universe and will judge the world according to His justice.
  - o PERFECT LOVE: God has already judged sin in the sacrifice of His Son and offered mankind complete pardon from the payment of sin.
  - o ALL GLORIOUS: God is ultimate beauty and perfection.
- g. Getting personal: See verses 18-19. Do you sometimes doubt (seriously) how much God loves you? His love is **wide**-it embraces everyone and anybody who comes to Him for mercy. His love is very **long**- He loves you from the creation of the world, and will love us into eternity. His love is so **high**—it seats us with Him in glory. His love is **deep**—it took Jesus to the cross as He experienced the wrath of His Father's punishment of sin.

# *Ephesians*

## Chapter Four

### Study Eight

**Focus: The Unifying powers of Christ's Body, the church**

**Text: Read 4:1-6**

**Note, just a brief revision:** We would begin to study chapter 4 to 6. We just finished the first half of Ephesians, chapter 1-3. It was a bit heavy because it is doctrinal. The second half chapter 4 to 6 is practical. We have learned that we should pray for each other and that we need to know God better, appreciate our hope more, and enjoy His power keeping us safe and secure for the rest of eternity. Our loving Heavenly Father has made spiritually dead sinners like us alive in Christ forever.

We can rejoice every moment of our lives because He reconciled us by His grace; His grace also reconciles us to each other in the Church. We are already united, but we need to maintain that unity in a beautiful manner. Every true Church of Jesus Christ is His trophy to show the world His marvelous grace and wisdom in reconciling people from every tribe, tongue and nation—in spite of different backgrounds and cultures. All of these amazing things were made possible through Christ.

In chapter 1 to 3 we have also celebrated God's eternal plan: to gather all things in heaven and on earth together under Christ (chapter 1); through the death and resurrection of Christ, which reconciles us to God and to each other (chapter 2); to manifest His triumphant wisdom to the spiritual realms in his Church (chapter 3).

Now, chapter 4-6 Paul gives us an outline and basic principles of how God wants to grow His churches, both in quantity and quality of life—that is numerically and in holiness of life. This is His designed for every culture and every generation. Paul explains in these three chapters how Christians must live as a church committed to—gathering people under the Lordship of Christ.

Now, let us investigate 4: 1-6 for our study eight.

### **Expected outcome:**

- a. That the members of His body must abstain from anything that breaks that harmony.
- b. Every member of the body must do all they can to foster and strengthen this unity.
- c. That each member might see the unifying power of this unity.
- d. To understand that unity does not mean uniformity; Unity is possible in spite of our diversity-through Christ.
- e. To understand these key words: Bearing, humility, Walk worthy
- f. Memorized 4: 4-6

**Study Questions**

1. v.1 Think back to the content of chapter 1-3 you have studied.

What is “the calling you have received”?

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2. v.1 What does verse 1 suggest that Paul will be teaching us in Chapters 4 to 6?

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3. v.2 How do we “live worthy of the calling”? Define each one

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4. v. 2 Look at these words: Lowliness (humility), gentleness (meekness), long suffering (patience), and bearing with one another in love. Explain each one and why it is important for unity and peace in the church.

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5. v.3 What do church members need to put effort into? Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in God's plan for our unity and peace (hint: consider the context carefully)

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6. vv. 4-6 Explain how each of the following factors plays a role in salvation:

A. One Body \_\_\_\_\_

B. One Spirit \_\_\_\_\_

C. One Hope \_\_\_\_\_

D. One Lord \_\_\_\_\_

E. One Faith \_\_\_\_\_

F. One Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

G. One God \_\_\_\_\_

7. Based on the context of 4:1-6, explain if unity and peace are just a matter of attitude towards other people or a matter of doctrinal soundness. Why?

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8. vv.4-6 Why are we to live this way?

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9. What is the one Spirit of v.4? Please notice that the Father and the Son are also included in the list in verses 4-6. What does this show you about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Are they separate beings or the same individuals?

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10. To help you answer Question.9, find some verses in the Bible that show that the Holy Spirit possesses the characteristics of a living spirit being, rather than just a power or force (some false cults do not believe that the Holy Spirit is a person) List some verses here and discuss them with your group

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## Additional applications

A. What do you reckon are the biggest obstacles to unity in the local church or denominational setting?

B. How can you as a church member of MCFA foster unity?

Consider these thoughts: We are members of His Body, therefore we must not only abstain from anything to harm that unity, but do all we can to foster and strengthen it.

C. It is clear from verses 4-6 –the unifying powers of the Body are shown. Try to notice the word “one” is mentioned 7 times; and also try to observe the phrase “above all,” “through all,” and “in you all.” What does this mean to you as part of the Body of Christ?

D. Getting personal: At our church gatherings or small group’s fellowship such as Bible study, picnic, birthdays parties, Christmas parties, etc –we could try to patiently rejoice in seeing others happy and welcome and cared for, instead of asserting ourselves.

Then as we look at (even just for a minute) our own attitude and actions towards our church, how are you encouraged to see humility, gentleness and patience? How could you grow in these areas?

## **Study Nine**

**Focus: The Edifying of Christ's Body, the Church.**

**Text: Read 4:7-16**

**Expected outcome:**

- A. That each member in the BS might be able to identify and affirm each ones' giftedness.
- B. To understand the purpose of the gift.
- C. To understand these key words: grace was given, lower, earthly regions, equip, edifying
- D. Memorized: 4:11-12 (and 13 if you are keen)

***Study Questions:***

1. v. 7 Explain the grace that has been given to each church member. By whom?

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2. Vv.8-10 What did Christ give to men when He ascended on high? What does it mean that He led captivity captive?

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**Note:** Here are some hints. According to Macarthur's Study Bible, "Paul used an interpretive rendering of Psalm 68:18 as a parenthetical analogy to show Christ received the right to bestow the spiritual gift v.7 Psalm 68 is a victory hymn composed by David to celebrate God's conquest of the Jebusite city of Jerusalem and the triumphant ascent of God up to Mt. Zion (2 Sam.6,7 and 1 Chro.13). After such triumph, the king would bring home the spoils and the prisoners. Here Paul depicts Christ returning from His battle on earth back into glory of the heavenly city with the trophies of His great victory at Calvary (2 Cor. 2:14-16)."

In other words the quote from Psalm 68:18 speaks of the ascended Christ giving His people to the world. And here Paul explains that Jesus has not only given to every church the foundational apostles and prophets of the first century (compare 4:11 to 2:20), but also He has given some people in every church the gifts needed to be "evangelists...pastors and teachers."

3. V.11 Define each of the different terms for the men that are listed. Perhaps you can find other verses and explain what work they do

A. Apostles (Remember study one?) \_\_\_\_\_

B. Prophets \_\_\_\_\_

C. Evangelists \_\_\_\_\_

D. Teachers (some says Pastor-Teacher for they perform similar tasks)  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Some denominations think that preachers are pastors. Any difference?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Some think that there is a difference between an Evangelist and Pastors. Not all preachers are pastors. To what extent do you agree?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. v. 11 Does this verse say that Jesus gave gifts to these different men or that the men themselves are the gifts? Explain your answer based on the context.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. v. 12 What is the purpose of these gifts?

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8. v.13 What are the three goals for the body of Christ?

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9. vv.14, 15 What will a church, where every member is contributing to the ministry:

- Not do v14? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do v.15 \_\_\_\_\_

10. v.14 Why do some people who have been Christians for many years still behave like ‘children?’

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11. v.15 How does the Body of Christ grow into maturity?

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12. v.15 Explain how such ‘speaking’ (the way we talk or text to each other), help to produce this maturity. Give examples if you wish.

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13. v.15 Explain why it is important to speak the truth in the context of marriage and other relationships.

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14. v.15 Explain why it is important that we speak in love in our homes, with our friends, brothers and sisters in Christ or any given situation

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15. v.16 Explain the illustration of this verse about the body. What role does this mean that we have as members of the body?

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16. v.16 What happens when members of the Body support each other?

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NB. In what way can we support each other, give some examples: Such as your physical presence in the BS and church services are encouraging to others, etc.....

## **Additional Applications**

- A. How does this undermine the idea that the full-time, paid pastors are there to do “ministry” for the rest of the church to “receive”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. Christians are not meant to be consumers in our church, but contributors to our church. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. Some ‘Christians’ consider a church like a supermarket where they can find great ‘goods or groceries.’ They go there because of what they can get. When the ‘goods’ are no longer too good, they find another church. They are like kangaroos hopping from one church to another. Is there some truth in this? Explain...
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- D. Getting personal: In what way are you currently contributing your ministry to your church? How do these verses we have studied encourage you in these areas of ministry?



## **Study Ten**

**Focus: Members of Christ's Body is the new man**

**Text: Read 4:17-32**

**Expected outcome:**

- A. To live a life pleasing to Jesus.
- B. To constantly examine ourselves and get rid of the negative qualities that hinders our growth.
- C. That we should not grieve the Holy Spirit
- D. To understand these key words: Lewdness, greediness, new man, not grieve the Holy Spirit
- E. Memorized: 4:30

### ***Study Questions***

1. Before you proceed, let us talk about Chameleons. This is an incredible species of lizard that can adapt their appearance according to the surrounding environment in order to keep themselves safe.

A. How might Christians live like spiritual chameleons? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Why might Christians live like spiritual chameleons? \_\_\_\_\_

C. How can we tell if we are living like chameleons? \_\_\_\_\_

2. vv. 17-19 Since most of the Ephesians were Gentiles, how does Paul describe the background from which they came? (Think, how does this relate to the context of 2:12)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. v.17 What does Paul insist on?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. vv17b-18 Paul describes here the “control tower” (that is the thinking process) of the Gentiles in four ways (refer to question 2). What are they?

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Can you see yourself in these four “control tower” before you know the Lord?

Please share your thoughts or experiences

- 
5. v.19 With their minds messed up, what three things happened to the Gentiles?

- 
6. v.18 What was the root cause for this?

- 
7. vv.20-21 Christians have a new sense of morality. What are two things this is based on?

- 
8. vv.22-24 What three actions were Christians commanded to do?
-

9. vv. 25-30 In particular, we have been commanded to “put off” four things and to “put on” four things. What are they?

	Put off	Put on
A.	_____	_____
B.	_____	_____
C.	_____	_____
D.	_____	_____

10. v.30 What do you learn about the Holy Spirit? What should you try to do?

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**Additional Applications**

A. Verses 31-32 give 6 negative qualities we are to get rid of and three positive qualities we are to cultivate. Examine your life on each of these qualities and put a dot on the line – somewhere between NO PROBLEM and BIG PROBLEM – rating each of these qualities. And share to the BS group, don't be shy! Just be honest.

NO PROBLEM                      BIG PROBLEM

Getting rid of all bitterness (holding a grudge)	_____
Getting rid of rage (pent-up hostile feelings)	_____
Getting rid of anger (explosive temper)	_____
Getting rid of brawling (loud-mouthed outburst)	_____
Getting rid of slander (insulting talk behind back)	_____
Getting rid of malice (plotting evil of another)	_____
Being kind (generous, quick to respond to need)	_____
Being compassionate (tender, sensitive, empathetic)	_____
Being forgiving (taking initiative to mend hurts)	_____

B. Getting personal: Where do you feel you are making progress in your Christian life at the moment? Where could you use a little push?

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# *Ephesians*

## Chapter Five

### **Study Eleven**

**Focus:** Duties of members of Christ's Body, the church (part 1)

(These duties are to walk in love, walk in the light, and walk in wisdom)

**Text:** Read 5:1-21

### **Expected outcomes:**

- A. Evidence of growth in love, righteousness and wisdom
- B. That you might know the signs or evidence that one is filled with the Spirit
- C. That you might know as Christians - your greatest calling is to be imitators of God. That is the very purpose of sanctification.
- D. To understand these key words: imitators of God, filled with the Spirit, obscenity, debauchery, redeeming the time, submitting to one another
- E. Memorize: 5:1-2

**Note:** In this Study Eleven, the duties are: walk in love, walk in the light and walk in wisdom. Paul exhorts us on what the Christian lifestyle ought to look like in contrast to the pagan lifestyle that so many of them lived out before they became Christians. He starts by encouraging them to be imitators of God by living a life of love (VV.1-2) in contrast to the life of lust they once knew (VV. 3-4). Then Paul proceeds to the whole question of incentives. Why should a Christian live a life in imitation to God? Find out!

### ***Study Questions:***

1. From love to lust or from lust to love?

A. v.1 For starters, what are we asked to be?

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B. v.2 Who and what is the model by which we are to shape our lives?

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C. vv.3-4 What are six kinds of behavior that are unacceptable for Christians?

\_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ ;

\_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

D. vv. 5-6 What strong warning does Paul give about people who practice these sins?

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E. v.7 How should a Christian relate to people who practice these sins?

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2. From light to darkness or from darkness to light?

A. v. 8 What do “darkness” and “light” stand for? (hints & helps from 1 John 1:5-7; Luke 22:53; Col.1:13; Matt. 8:12; 2Pet.2:17; tragically sinners love the darkness John3:19-21)

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B. v.9 What is the fruit of light? \_\_\_\_\_

C. vv.10-11 What are we to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness?

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D. vv.11-13 Why is it loving for a Christian not only to “have nothing to do” with sinful behavior, but to “expose them” by living differently in an obvious way?

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E. v. 14 This verse is a quotation from Isaiah 60:1. Paul extended an invitation for salvation to the unsaved, in order that they may be transformed from children of darkness into children of God’s holy light (see Prov.4:18)

How do you understand the words “sleep” and “dead”? \_\_\_\_\_

How might Christ give someone the light? \_\_\_\_\_

3. From wisdom to foolishness or from foolishness to wisdom?

A. vv.15-16 Are you a true Christian?

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What choice do you have in living your life now?

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B. vv. 15-18 What are three things we are NOT to do, and what are three things we are commanded to do instead?

Not

Instead

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C. v.19 When Christians get together, what should they focus on?

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Is this happening in your BS and our church? Why or why not?

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D. Based upon verses 15 to 21 alone, how do you know a Christian is filled by the Holy Spirit?

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**Additional Applications**

A. Based on verses 17-20, what are three things you could do to maximize your Christian life now?  
On the scale of 10/10 give us your report card

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B. Pray: Thank God for making you “light in the Lord” with new Christ-like clothes to wear. You are a new creation in Christ.....

C. Share with the group a time when you struggled to live for Christ because of the pressures from friends, work, family etc.....And if you wish, ask the group to pray for you asking God to renew and change you. Don’t be shy...

D. Getting personal: Believers often have the reputation for what they deny and reject, but not a matching reputation for gracious generosity towards others. Could that ever be true of you?

## **Study Twelve**

### **Focus: Duties of members of Christ's body, the church (part 2)**

Basic duties of husbands and wives to each other

**Text:** Read 5:21-33

#### **Expected outcome:**

- a. To understand the true meaning of sacrificial love
- b. That husband and wife may love more sacrificially
- c. To clearly understand that Christ is the Head of the church
- d. To understand that marriage is the picture of Christ and the church
- e. To understand these key words: submission, sacrificial love, sanctify, holy, without blemish, fear
- f. Memorize: **5:25**

**Note:** God wants His church to maintain unity, the believers to contribute to the ministry, and to grow to maturity by speaking the gospel truth to each other. In our previous study Paul wants us to put off the ways of the world and put on a Christ-like attitude of love just as Christ loved us. We are admonished not to live in the darkness of immorality or drunkenness, but as believers who love the Saviour and walk as children of light and wisdom; and to be filled by the Spirit and grateful to God always. In this Study twelve, godliness begins at home. As a husband and wife you can apply the principles you have learned in previous lessons: -to walk in love; to walk in the light; and to walk in wisdom. Together with these principles, I want you to see the significance of a marriage relationship and the deeper meaning of sacrificial love.

#### **Great lesson, 5:21-33**

#### ***Study Questions:***

1. For starters: Suppose you asked 20 people:

A. What is the point of marriage? What answers would you get

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B. What is the funniest thing that happened on your honeymoon? (Optional to share)

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C. What is one thing you liked about your parent's marriage?

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D. What is one thing you did during your courting days that you would like to restart?

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2. v.21 This verse is like an introduction and summary section we are considering, “submitting to one another in the fear (out of reverence, deep respect) of God.” Is it difficult for you to submit? Why?

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**Note:** Submit means to subject yourself under someone’s authority. We know that it is impossible for Christians to submit to one another, all the time. That is why we often say, “it all depends” upon the circumstances and the context. Now, the Apostle Paul is giving us three general principles or areas where Christians are: depending on the circumstances or situations, you are called to submit, and where other Christians are called to lead with authority. Read these verses 5:21-33 very carefully and try to notice that each command comes with a gospel-based explanation and motivation. Please spend time on these verses before going to BS; I’m sure you will have a very interesting discussion.

3. Going back to verse 20 and connecting this to v.21, what spiritual principle is the starting point of this passage v.21

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4. Considering the issue of “submitting” the context indicates (5:15-20) that there are four signs of a Spirit filled Christian: Wise person v.15, Joyful-singing person v.19, thankful person v.20, submissive person v.21. Do you think a Spirit-filled Christian has difficulty submitting herself or himself to the person she/he loves? Why or why not?

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5. v. 22 Within the context of marriage, what is a wife’s duty and how is this to be measured?

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6. Vv.23-24 What is the rationale for holding the husband in such high esteem?

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7. v.23 The headship of the husband in the home and the wife’s responsibility to submit is one of the ingredients of a happy home. Dear wife - to what extent do you agree?

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**Note:** Explain why authority is important in any group of men and women working together. Think and list anything you know about authority relationship that God has ordained. Example: government, supermarket boss etc.

8. v.25 We might expect a husband to be commanded to “lead” his wife. But what is the duty of the husband to the wife and how is this to be measured?

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9. v.25 What is the true meaning of sacrificial love? Who is our model?

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10. Dear wife - Do you feel that it is easier (or not a real burden) to submit to your husband if you knew for certain that his love for you is ‘sacrificial love’? How does he express his sacrificial love? Give some examples to share.

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11. Dear wife - (put it in another way) Why would a wife like you be able to joyfully submit to a husband who loved and led in this way?

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12. v.25 Therefore, (after the ideas discussed above) what lessons should husbands learn from the relationship of Christ to the church? Are you cornered husbands?

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13. vv.26-27 Using the Middle-east metaphor where wedding preparations are very significant-what are the five stages of spiritual responsibility that the husband is asked to perform for his wife?

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14. vv. 28-29 Using an athletic term “fitness” as a metaphor, how is the husband to care for his wife?

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15. Vv. 28-30 Gives us an illustration of how to teach husbands to love their wives. The way a man treats his body should be similar to how he should treat his wife. He needs to “nourish and cherish.” How do you express this to your wife?

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16. v.31 From where did Paul quote this verse?

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Summarize what the verse teaches about marriage, especially what it teaches about the relationship between the husband and the wife in our context of study.

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17. v.32 What subject is Paul primarily discussing in the overall context?

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18. v 33 As we finish this chapter let us say, as Paul said “Nevertheless...” What application does this passage have to husbands? What application does this have to wives?

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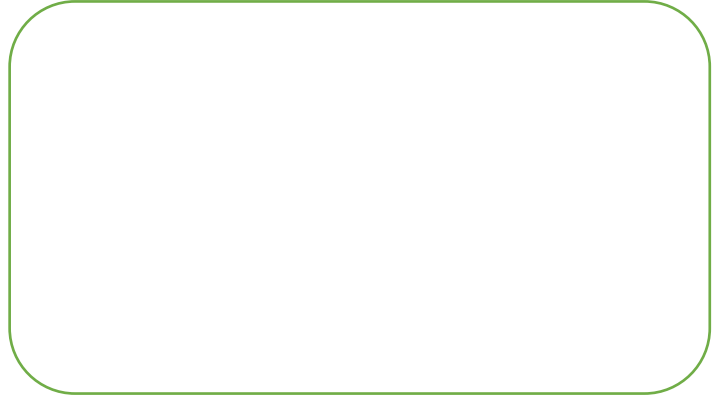
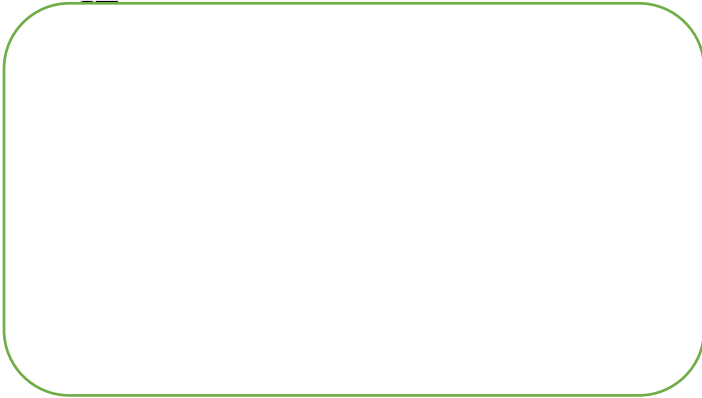
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**Additional Applications**

A. Go back over the Scripture passage for specific instructions for your part and role in the marriage bond. In the left column, jot down what they are, and in the right column, one thing you could do to carry out each one of the instructions in the next few days.

**WHAT I AM SUPPOSED TO DO**

**WHAT I AM GOING TO DO ABOUT**



B. If you are married... how does that excite and equip you to live out your God-given role as a husband or a wife? Does anything need to change?

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If you are not married (yet)...how does realizing that we shall all be joyfully united to Christ alter your view of being single and alter your understanding of Christ's love for you?

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C. Getting personal: Wives, what are you doing to encourage your husband in his responsibility? Are you fun to live with?

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Husbands, how seriously do you take the spiritual nurture of your wife? Do you nourish and cherish her regularly?

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# ***Ephesians***

## **Chapter Six**

### **Study Thirteen**

**Focus:** Duties of members of Christ's body, the church (part 3)

Basic duties concerning parents and children; employer and employee

**Text:** Read Ephesians 6:1-9

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- A. To be able to maintain respect for our parents and to be fair to our children
- B. To be just and fair in our exercise of leadership in our work etc.
- C. To understand these key words: master and slave relationships; provoke
- D. Memorized: 6:4

**Note:** Starters: What is the best family program on TV? Are you going to be stricter or more lenient on your children than your parents were with you? When you were growing up - what was your most difficult year? Did you enjoy your first job and 'smell-sweet' the hard-earned money? I guess most of us are 'employee' with some responsibility and authority to others. Are you being just and fair to other employees?

In this study, we are called to display Christ's triumph and love every day in our marriages, families, and workplaces-both in the way we lead and the way we submit.

### ***Study Questions:***

**Note:** These four verses are about parent and children relationship

1. v.1 What are children commanded to do? Those only living at home? Explain phrase, "in the Lord"

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2. Vv.2,3 What are three reasons for this?

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3. How do children honour their parents? Give some examples

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4. In your home, list various ways that children sometimes fail to honour their parents.

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5. v. 4 How could fathers provoke their children? Explain “training and admonition”.

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6. List ways that parents sometimes provoke their children to wrath.

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7. v.4 Is this a restriction Paul places on parental authority?

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8. v. 4 What two obligations do parents have in bringing up their children?

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9. v.4 What are fathers (and mothers, in support of them or in their place if the father is not present) to do, and not to do?

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**Note:** These verses 5-9 are about slaves and masters, but there is much for us to learn from the principle Paul gives for our workplaces today.

10. V.5 What is a slave's central obligation to his master?

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11. VV.5-7 List and explain the principles that servants should follow in serving their masters.

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12. V.8 Describe the ultimate reward for servants

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13. V. 9 How is a master to treat his/her slaves?

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14. V. 9 What is the ultimate threat for someone who treats another person unfairly?

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## Additional Applications

A. Modern society, particularly in western democracies-advocate raising children permissibly with little or no authority. There are also those who believe that other arrangements are possible besides the natural parents raising children - such as homosexual marriage, government agencies, communes etc.

B. Read Mark 10: 42-45 as an illustration. Jesus explains the difference between how the world uses authority, and how members of His kingdom (Christians) use their authority. Learn some lessons from this.

C. What should motivate our hard work as an employee? What should we not allow to motivate us?

vv 5-8

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D. Discuss in your group some ways in which you can support each other in these three relationships: marriage, parenting or being parented, and the workplace. Try to be specific and practical.

E. Getting personal: As you look back:

As a parent now, (maybe you are now between 25 to 85), what do you appreciate most about the way you were brought up?

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Share:

What would you like to pass on to your kids from your family? Morals, values, the Lord, money, property? Which is the most important?

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Share:



## **Study Fourteen**

**Focus:** Duties of members of Christ’s body, the church (part 4)

As members of Christ body, we are always engaged in a spiritual warfare.

**Text:** Read Ephesians 6:10-24

### **Expected outcomes:**

- A. To better understand the battle between the forces of good and evil as real or imagined?
- B. To know more about the secrets of victorious Christian life
- C. To understand these key words: Rulers, authorities, power, the day of evil, ambassador, wiles
- D. Memorize: 6:10-11

### ***Study Questions:***

**Note:** When I was in third year high school (year 11, in Southern Philippines), I read about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. I wonder if you have read or seen a movie about him or similar. I enjoyed reading about battles in history. I love the clever strategies of the winners. Every day we are engaged in a spiritual battle(s). Maybe sometimes we ‘win, sometimes we lose.’ But we don’t want to be called a “loser.” Today you are in the battlefield. What is the secret of victory? Find out!

Paul begins verse 10 “***Finally***” - because far from being random or disconnected afterthought, this passage is actually the glorious climax of Ephesians—and it is all about spiritual warfare. This is a war that every Christian is involved in, and needs to stand firm in.

1. V.10 What are Christians challenged to do?

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2. VV.10,11 What has God provided to help us be strong in doing His work? What are we able to do by the strength God supplies?

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3. V.12 What is the struggle the Christian must face?

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4. V.13 What is the Christian commanded to do?

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**Note:** Before we proceed to complete this chapter, I would like you to look at some of these verses-- to give you a broad idea about your enemy.

- A. What do these verses tell you about the devil and his aims? Read: Revelation 12:9, 12; John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8
- B. What do these verses tell you about what Jesus has done to the devil? Read: Luke 11:14-22; Colossians 2:13-15; 1John 3:8
- C. What will one day happen to the devil? Read: Revelation 20:7-10

5. VV.14-18 What are the seven parts of the armour of the Christian and what does each mean? (Some say only 6, but the 7<sup>th</sup> is prayer, the powerhouse of this warfare.)

**Seven pieces of armour**

**What does each mean**

A. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

F. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

G. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. VV.13-14 What does victory in this spiritual warfare look like?

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7. VV.14-17 Look at the armour we are to “put on” in these verses. It is not a list of actions. So what unites the pieces that Paul identifies?

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**Note:** This is the armour that Jesus Himself wore as He resisted the temptation of Satan (Matt.4:1-11), and then utterly defeated him on the cross. Paul here illustrates the armour in terms of a Roman foot-soldier — and it is a description fulfilled in the faith and work of Christ.

8. V.18 What final piece of “armour” does Paul identify in v.18? Why is it so powerful? Reread 1:19b-22; 3:20-21 from previous study to show you the importance of this.

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It seems that Paul does not consider ‘prayer’ as the seventh weapon. Do you agree?

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Rather, it underlies the whole process of spiritual warfare.

9. VV.19-20 Why is Paul asking for this kind of prayer? Why is he particularly in need of prayer for this, given the situation?

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10. Vv.21,22 Who had Paul sent to the Ephesian church, and how is he described? For what purpose especially did Paul send him?

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11. Vv. 23,24 Paul closes his epistle to the Church in Ephesus and perhaps this was his final farewell that sums up what we have seen about God throughout this epistle. How and why these three words are great summaries? Write your answer below:

A. Peace v.23

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B. Love V.23

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**Additional Applications**

A. In what way is your praying for the gospel to be preached part of God's great plan for the world?

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B. How can you encourage each other to pray for others as verses 18-19 layout, as a group and as a Church?

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C. Case history: Your friend started out with the horoscope and innocent-looking table games (tarot cards, yoga, etc.). Now, she is playing around with spiritism. She says that she is a Christian and that God will look after her. What is your advice?

D. Getting personal: Take time to share your experience together during this course, using the spiritual measurement below. And since this is the last unit, perhaps you are now able (and no longer shy) to measure your spiritual progress.

**Circle a number from 1 to 10. 1 being weak and 10 being strong-for each category below.**

(1) Knowing the will of God for my life

1. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(2) Developing strong spiritual muscles

1. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(3) Sorting out my life priorities

1. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(4) Experiencing God' grace and peace

1. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(5) Being sensitive to other people

1. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1

(6) Knowing and using my spiritual gifts

1. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Resources to use:**

Overview of Ephesians by Bible Project – YouTube video

John Macarthur Study Bible

**Sources Used:**

John Macarthur Study Bible Background on Ephesians as Introduction

Various Bible Study Material



**Not for sale, but for small group study only**

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# BIBLE



Study

## Why Study the Bible:

- To understand Cultural literacy
- To learn firsthand information
- Inspired writing
- To know God and have Eternal Life
- To grow personally in the Body of Christ
- To encourage others
- To know the claims of Christ
- To avoid error
- To be loyal for His cause

# DISCIPLESHIP BOOK 4

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