

## **Bible Study: Ephesians-1**

**Author:** The Apostle Paul; **Date:** Probably in the early A. D. 60s

**Theme:** “God’s New Society: Unity”

*“May the eyes of your heart be enlightened  
in order that you may know the hope. . .(Ephesians 1: 18)*

### **Reflections: Ephesians Ch. 1**

1. In your words, describe the “blessings in Christ” (vv. 3-9). What are seven things that God has done for us, starting in verse 4? How does being chosen by God (v.4) relate to our believing and salvation (v. 13)?
2. When did you come to appreciate all that God has done for you in Jesus Christ?
3. How do you know if you are “chosen”? How does knowing you are adopted change your view of yourself and God?
4. How do you feel about the quality of love of the One who has chosen you? How does this affect your love for others?
5. In your own words, what does Paul pray for the Ephesians?
6. When a Christian plugs into God’s energy source, what kind of power can be expected? How does Jesus give hope and power?
7. How much of God’s energy are you using at the moment?
8. God put into your bank account all of his resources. What is keeping you from transferring them into your checking account?

## **Bible Study: Ephesians-2**

**Author:** The Apostle Paul; **Date:** Probably in the early A. D. 60s

**Theme:** “God’s New Society: Unity”

*“Christ is our peace, breaking down the dividing walls of hostility, making two different people (Jew and Greek) one. ... Christ came to preach peace and to teach peace” (Ephesians 2: 14-15)*

### **Reflections: Ephesians Ch. 2**

1. Paul divides your life into two periods. What are they? Who owned you in the first period? What was the result? For what purpose did God take over your life?
2. What is the differences between cosmetic surgery (to remove wrinkles) and the surgery God performs?
3. Is a Christian ever completely rid of the cravings of the past – lust, selfishness, pride, ect.? What in your life is due only to God’s presence and goodness?
4. What is the problem in this church? Who are the “in” people? Who are the “out” people? How did God resolve this problem (v. 13)?
5. What is the difference between Hitler’s “superior race” or “white supremacy” and Paul’s idea of “one body”? How has your life changed through this “one body” (v. 16)?
6. How do you think the practicing Jews felt when these Gentiles started coming to their church, but didn’t want to adopt the Jewish custom of circumcision?
7. If Paul wrote a letter to your church today, what stand would he take on issues that threaten to tear the church apart? What relationship in your life still has walls to be knocked down?

## **Bible Study: Ephesians-3**

**Author:** The Apostle Paul; **Date:** Probably in the early A. D. 60s

**Theme:** “God’s New Society: Unity”

*“. . . to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3: 19).*

1. What exactly is the mystery Paul is talking about? What does Paul have to do with this mystery? Where does the church come in?
2. When did this mystery take on meaning in your life?
3. Is Paul being hard on himself in verse 8, or just appropriately humble? Why?
4. How would you compare Paul’s passion to share this mystery to your own passion?
5. How would you explain the way one can know God (2: 18; 3: 12)?
6. If Paul lived in your community who in particular would he go after for Christ?
7. Where does the unifying Gospel (v. 6) challenge you: e. g. issues of racism? Sexism? Mission? Concern for the poor and elderly?
8. Where is God calling you to be an ambassador for him? Why has he chosen you?

***Lectio Divina:*** *The simplest way we can do it: “When you read the scripture, please be attentive to what verse or phrase from the reading that stands out to you. This could be something you are intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you,*

*or just something you want to examine further. Write that in your journal. What strikes you about this verse? Then this word, verse, or phrases you would like to meditate on for a day or a week.”*

### **Bible Study: Ephesians-4**

**Author:** The Apostle Paul; **Date:** Probably in the early A. D. 60s

**Theme:** “God’s New Society: Unity”

“Be Renewed in the Spirit of your Mind” (*Ephesians 4: 23*)

### **Reflections: Ephesians Ch. 4**

1. Of the qualities listed in verse 2, which did you demonstrate the best today?  
The worst?
2. What is God’s purpose in giving gifts to his people? Why is it important that each part of “the body” does its work?
3. What does it mean to speak “the truth in love” (v.15)? How is this different than just speaking truth?
4. According to this passage, what’s the problem with trying to live the Christian life apart from the church?
5. On a scale of 1 (apart) to 10 (together), how unified is our church? How are you doing at fulfilling your call to “keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (v.3)?
6. Are you living up to the “calling you have received” (v.1)? In your work? Your home? Your relationships? Why or why not?
7. Of the four jobs Paul describes for a management team, which job would you choose: apostle (pioneer and church planter), prophet (motivator and

encourager), evangelist (soul winner) or pastor/teacher (trainer and coach)?

How can you develop this gift?

8. Are you more likely to “speak the truth” or “in love” try to keep the peace at any price? To achieve a balance, what do you need to learn?
9. How would you compare moral standards today with the oral standards in Paul’s day?
10. What does it mean “to put off your old self” (v. 22) and “to put on the new self” (v. 24)?
11. How do you usually deal with anger? What do you usually deal with anger? What do you learn about anger from verses 26-27?
12. What grade would you give yourself on putting verse 29 into practice this last week?
13. From verse 31 and 32, what negative attitudes should we eliminate and what positive attitudes should we cultivate?
14. How have your attitudes, actions and thoughts changed since turning your life over to God?