

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

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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

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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?

Bible Study: Ephesians-4

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“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?

Bible Study: Ephesians-5

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Theme: “God’s New Society: Unity”

“Be imitators of God.” (*Ephesians 5: 1*)

Reflections: Ephesians Ch. 5

1. Ephesus was known for sexual immorality. The Temple of Diana had 300 prostitutes. Sexual pleasure was part of the “religion” of the city. How does the apostle Paul confront this pagan culture?
2. What is the standard Paul sets for Christians in verses 1 and 8? What does verse 6 say about resisting “peer pressure”?
3. What is the difference between “foolish talk or coarse joking” (v. 4) and a good belly-laugh? Between the “fruitless deeds of darkness” (v.11) and good clean fun?

4. What contrasts does Paul draw between the old and the new life in verses 15-21? What sights, sounds, feelings, attitudes and actions define this new life?
5. As you look back over your life since becoming a Christian, what positive changes have you seen in your motives and desires?
6. As you compare the life that you lived before Christ to the life you have today, where have you seen the greatest change? In your language? Your desires? Your values? The way you treat your spouse? Your children?
7. How do verses 18-21, on the Holy Spirit's infilling, affect your attitude toward these verses on submission?
8. In the culture of his day – which addressed women through their husbands, and by Jewish law termed a woman a “thing” – would Paul be considered a “chauvinist” or a “radical feminist?”
9. Christ's love led him to die for us. What would it mean for a husband to live with his wife with this type of love (vv. 25-33)? How did Christ act out his headship?
10. How did your parents approach marriage? Two masters? Two servants? One master, one servant? What is the goal of Christian marriage (v. 31)? What role does sex play?
11. What does it mean to “honor your parents?” To bring up children in the Lord without exasperating them?
12. If you work for someone, how are you to look upon your job? If you are the boss, how are you to look upon your employees? Can you hold to these principles today in your business and still make it?
13. What does a wife do when the husband does not take spiritual leadership?
14. Whom do you look up to as a good role model for marriage?
15. What is God saying to you about your spouse? Family?

Bible Study: Ephesians-6

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“Put on the full armor of God” (*Ephesians 6: 11*)

Reflections: Ephesians Ch. 6

1. From his prison cell awaiting trial, Paul looks up and sees a battle raging (vv. 12-13). What is his battle? What is it over?
2. What are the six armors for the Christian? Defensive weapons?
3. What attitude should we have as we face these forces? How does prayer fit into this spiritual battle?
4. If you had to compare your spiritual armor to this list, where are you strong? Weak? What do you need to do to prepare for battle? What is at stake if you don’t?
5. What evidence do you see of the battle in your life? Your church? Your community? Your nation? The world? What would it mean for you “to stand” in these particular battlefields?

***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.”*