

Ephesians

Study Outline

Main Point: As the cultural and economic center of the eastern half of the Roman empire, Ephesus was a city of strategic importance. This may explain why in the midst of his second missionary journey Paul spent more time in Ephesus than in any other city. After first reaching out to the Jews, most of Paul's ministry in Ephesus was geared towards the large gentile community living there. During these two years (Acts 18), the influence of Paul's teaching ministry transcended beyond the Ephesian church and spread across most

of Asian Minor. While in a Roman prison (62 AD) awaiting his trial, Paul wrote a series of letters known as the "prison epistles." In his letter to the church in Ephesus (1st prison epistle), Paul discusses the great mystery of the church. Hidden to the O.T. saints, the church had become God's ultimate masterpiece!

EPHESIANS OUTLINE:

1. THE CHURCH: POSITION IN CHRIST JESUS

EPHESIANS 1

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

With Jesus as the head, the church functions positionally as the body of Christ. In essence, the church has become intimately joined together with Jesus. It is through this unity that we have been forgiven, redeemed, and adopted into the family of God. This adoption provides the believer with a great heavenly inheritance as well as every spiritual blessing for present access.

EPHESIANS 2

THE CHURCH IS A TEMPLE FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Because all individuals find salvation by His grace alone, this great grace becomes an incredible unifier of human beings. All of the old divisions that separated people fade away as we become a new people in Christ Jesus who has resurrected us from our sins and given us new life. It is through this new life and subsequent unity that the church becomes the dwelling place for the Holy Spirit.

EPHESIANS 3

THE CHURCH IS A GREAT MYSTERY

The saving work of Jesus not only unifies all people in His grace, but it eliminates any spiritual hierarchy. Like the Jews, the Gentiles are now fellow heirs, fellow members, and fellow partakers of the promises of God. In the Old Testament the Jews were considered "God's people". The great revealed mystery of Scripture is how the Gentiles would have equal inclusion in the body of Christ.

2. THE CHURCH: EARTHLY CONDUCT AND CALLING

EPHESIANS 4

THE CHURCH IS A NEW MAN

Since the church contains many individuals making up one new man, Paul encourages the believers to walk in unity, grow in spiritual maturity, and treat one another with the same love Christ extended towards us. The key is for each individual believer to put on the new man created by Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 5:1-6:9

THE CHURCH IS CHRIST'S BRIDE

The unity, love, and intimacy produced in the relationship we have with Christ should in turn effect the relationships we have with the world around us. Just as Christ's love for the church was demonstrated in His selflessness and sacrifice, so should our love be displayed towards one another. The way God has treated us should be the example for how we treat others.

EPHESIANS 6:10-24

THE CHURCH REPRESENTS CHRIST

As the body of Jesus Christ the church's job is to represent Christ to the world around us. We should be prepared for a real spiritual warfare and ready to act as an ambassador when called upon. It's wise to always remember the power and might to fulfill the lofty call of representing Jesus is found in the Lord not in ourselves.



Day 1: Every Spiritual Blessings.....

Ephesians 1:3-14 // THINKING POINTS: (1). When Paul mentions "spiritual blessings" what is he talking about? (2). What are the origins of these blessings and how many of them have you been blessed with? (3). What does it mean to you when you think about God choosing to make you an adopted son or daughter?

Day 2: Wall of Separation.....

Ephesians 2:8-18 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What are some of the areas that our society naturally divides itself over? (2). What great reality provides all humanity a common bond we can unify over in spite of our differences? (3). Have you been guilty of allowing divisions to arise between you and a fellow believer? Explain.

Day 3: Put Off Put On.....

Ephesians 4:17-24 // THINKING POINTS: (1). In these verses Paul establishes an easy model for Christian growth. What are the three steps? (2). How do you put off the old man and actively put on the new man? (3). What is the end result of this putting off and putting on?

Day 4: Obey Your Parents.....

Ephesians 6:1-4 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What does it mean to "obey your parents"? What are the immediate benefits to being obedient? (2). What is often our biggest stumbling block when it comes to simply being obedient? (3). Though submitting to your parents in Godly obedience is honoring to them, who else are you honoring?

Day 5: Arm Yourself.....

Ephesians 6:10-17 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Why is it important for the believer to "put on the whole armor of God"? (2). List the armor. Define what it is that Paul is referring too? Do you keep an active awareness of the spiritual battle taking place around you, or have you allowed yourself to become distracted? (3). Why do you think there isn't any piece of armor to cover the back of the spiritual warrior?

Day 6: Ambassador.....

Ephesians 6:17-20 // THINKING POINT: (1). When we send an ambassador to another country, what is this person's main job. Define the role of an ambassador. (2). If we (like Paul) are called to be ambassadors of Jesus and His kingdom, what practical impact should this have on the way we live our lives? (3). How effective have you been at representing the heavenly kingdom you claim to be a citizen of?

DEVOTIONS

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