

INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER

The Author & His Mission

Ancient Ephesus

Paul's Connection to the Ephesian Christians

The Makeup of the Congregation at Ephesus



DISCUSS:

In what ways can you relate to the ancient Ephesian Christians?

Paul and the Ephesian Christians had a very deep bond for one another. How did that bond form? How does it form today in God's Church?

Describe Paul's approach to being a missionary in Ephesus. List some ways in which we could model that approach today.

OVERVIEW OF LETTER

Ch 1-3: Understand who you are in Christ

Ch 4-6: Live in a manner worthy of who you are in Christ

Ephesians *Introduction*

Ephesians 1 *Chosen In Christ*

Ephesians 2 *From Death to Life in Christ*

Ephesians 3 *One Family in Christ*

Ephesians 4 *Living as One in Christ*

Ephesians 4-5 *Living Under God's Direction*

Ephesians 5-6 *Living As Light in Christ*

EPHESIANS 1 CHOSEN IN CHRIST FROM ETERNITY

What is the “doctrine of election?”

List four reasons for our election:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How does the Bible’s teaching on our election by God bring comfort?

Mystery =

How does God make his mysteries known to us?

Mystery which Paul was called to reveal:

What things convey the Trinity in this chapter?

Use Paul’s prayer to distinguish between faith and knowledge.

DISCUSS:

1. Agree / Disagree “Election is a confusing doctrine.”
2. How would the doctrine of election help the Ephesians as they faced opposition to their faith?
3. How does it help believers today?



EPHESIANS 2 PASSING FROM DEATH TO LIFE

What do we learn about the devil, the world, and our sinful-flesh from the opening verses?

How were we made alive? Give two main reasons/purposes for which we were made alive.

Good works don't save us. But give three reasons why a Christian would still do them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

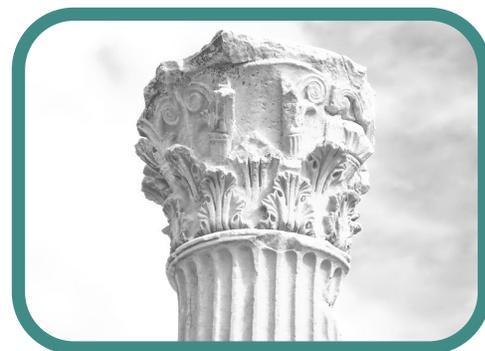
2:4-7 How are these verses vitally important for

- 1) the burdened conscience?
- 2) The consecrated believer?
- 3) The evangelist?
- 4) The self-righteous?

What is the main point of the second half of this chapter?

DISCUSS:

1. *Agree or Disagree* "The Apostle Paul raises our hopes by directing our eyes to what we can become as long as we keep striving to follow Christ."
2. What barrier walls are we in danger of constructing within the church today?
3. What is the best way to tear down dividing walls between groups within a congregation?
4. Respond to the charge that Christian's are "exclusivist."



EPHESIANS 3 BELONGING TO ONE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS

What special administration of God's grace was given to Paul?

The gospel is a "mystery" until God revealed it. What additional truth regarding that gospel would remain a "mystery" unless God revealed it?



3:12-13 List some important truths to remember when someone suffers for faithfulness to the Lord.

Eph 3:14-21 Breaking it Down:

- ◇ Paul's attitude in prayer
- ◇ The basis for his appeal
- ◇ His target recipients
- ◇ Five or six things he prays be done for them
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)

DISCUSS:

1. Paul became a servant of the gospel by God's gift and working. How can we say that is true of ministers of the gospel today?
2. What things in Paul's life kept him humble? How does the Christian keep humble when they know they are in such a high position as "members of God's household." ?
3. How can a church keep its calling to reach the lost clear itself and to all?

EPHESIANS 4:1-24 LIVING AS ONE CALLED TO CHRIST

What things tie together the whole Christian Church?

What breaks the unity of the church? What efforts can we make to maintain unity?



4:1-16 List four truths we learn in this section about Christian pastors:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

We are introduced here to the “old self” and “new self.” Describe the dual nature of a Christian.

DISCUSS:

1. Why is Paul’s encouragement to maintain unity so important for your congregation? Evaluate the efforts being done to accomplish this in your church.
2. Agree / Disagree “It’s the pastor who unites the congregation.”
3. How might we be tempted to “live as the Gentiles do” in today’s world? (4:22) Why are the old self’s desires so “deceitful”?
4. Why is “putting of the old-self” a constant thing in our new way of life? How do we do it?
5. Identify some truths in this section which help us see the need to go far beyond youth confirmation classes.

EPHESIANS 4:25 - 5:21 FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTIVES

Make a list of things involved with putting on the new self.

-
-
-

What things in this section remind us that this is a spiritual struggle?



How does Eph 5:7 guide our church fellowship practices?

Exposing sin:

- ◇ How?
- ◇ Intended Result?

Complete the "NEW SELF" chart.

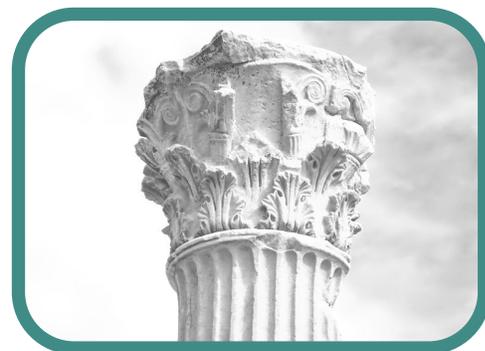
Instead of:	Let there be:
Falsehood	
Unwholesome Talk	
Bitterness, Rage, Malice	
Foolish talk, Course joking	
Fruitless deeds of darkness	
Living unwise, wasting your precious time	
Drunkenness	

DISCUSS:

1. Why is putting on the new self important if we are already saved by grace?
2. What routines or practices in your life will ensure you daily follow God's directives?

EPHESIANS 5:21 —> LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S DIRECTIVES

How are wives and husbands to put on the new self within marriage?



Spiritual Warfare

- * Our enemy:
- * His tactics:

Our tools of defense:

-
-
-
-

Our tools and tactics for offense:

-
-

Regarding prayer:

- ◇
- ◇

DISCUSS:

1. Identify some of the pros and cons of using technology to build up and encourage believers.
2. For what would you find this letter most useful?
3. What takeaways will you hold onto the most after this study?
4. Why is this letter worth reading over and over?