

Book of Ephesians

Synopsis



Introduction

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| Book No | 49 |
| Name | Ephesians |
| Written By | Paul |
| Testament | New |
| Category | Epistles |
| Date Written | Approx. 60 A.D |
| Place Written | Rome |
| Audience | Church in Ephesus |
| Purpose | To strengthen the believers in Ephesus in their Christian faith by explaining the nature and purpose of the church, the body of Christ |
| History Covered | NA |
| Chapters | 6 |
| Verses | 155 |
| Key Verse | There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (4:4-6) |
| Key People | ❖ Paul ❖ Tychicus |
| Key Places | ❖ Ephesus |

Purpose of the Book

The “church age” began at Pentecost (Acts 2). Born in Jerusalem, the church spread rapidly through the ministry of the apostles and the early believers. Fanned by persecution, the gospel flame then spread to other cities and nations. On three courageous journeys, Paul and his associates established local assemblies in scores of Gentile cities.

One of the most prominent of those churches was at Ephesus. It was established in A.D. 53 on Paul’s homeward journey to Jerusalem. But Paul returned a year later, on his third missionary trip, and stayed there for three years, preaching and teaching with great effectiveness (Acts 19:1-20). At another time, Paul met with the Ephesian elders, and he sent Timothy to serve as their leader (1 Timothy 1:3).

Just a few years later, Paul was sent as a prisoner to Rome. In Rome, he was visited by messengers from various churches, including Tychicus of Ephesus. Paul wrote this letter to the church and sent it with Tychicus. Not written to counteract heresy or to confront any specific problem, Ephesians is a letter of encouragement. In it Paul describes the nature and appearance of the church, and he challenges believers to function as the living body of Christ on earth.

After a warm greeting (1:1-2), Paul affirms the nature of the church—the glorious fact that believers in Christ have been showered with God’s kindness (1:3-8), chosen for greatness (1:9-12), marked with the Holy Spirit (1:13-14), filled with the Spirit’s power (1:15-23), freed from sin’s curse and bondage (2:1-10), and brought near to God (2:11-18). As part of God’s “household,” we stand with the prophets, apostles, Jews, Gentiles, and Christ himself (2:19–3:13). Then, as though overcome with emotion by remembering all that God has done, Paul challenges the Ephesians to live close to Christ, and he breaks into spontaneous praise (3:14-21).

Paul then turns his attention to the implications of being in the body of Christ, the church. Believers should have unity in their commitment to Christ and their use of spiritual gifts (4:1-16). They should have the highest moral standards (4:17–6:9). For the individual, this means rejecting pagan practices (4:17–5:20), and for the family, this means mutual submission and love (5:21–6:9).

Paul then reminds them that the church is in a constant battle with the forces of darkness and that they should use every spiritual weapon at their disposal (6:10-17).

He concludes by asking for their prayers, commissioning Tychicus, and giving a benediction (6:18-24).

In short, Ephesians discloses awesome blessings of grace (“accepted in the Beloved,” 1:6) and awesome dimensions of spiritual authority over evil (“according to the power that works in us,” 3:20). But this awaits the believer’s first accepting the disciplines of unity (4:1–16), purity (4:17–31), forgiveness (4:32), and walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit (5:1–21). With this, relationships at every point must be in order (5:22–6:9), the idea being firmly established that true spiritual power flows from true obedience to the divine order in relationships and personal conduct.

As you read this masterful description of the church, thank God for the diversity and unity in his family, pray for your brothers and sisters across the world, and draw close to those in your local church.

Overview

- ❖ 49th book of the BIBLE, 10th in the New Testament, 5th of the 21 epistles and 5th of the 14 epistles written by Paul
- ❖ The Book of Ephesians is one of four “Prison Epistles,” so titled because they were written by the apostle while he was a Roman prisoner in Rome at the time they were written. The four “Prison Epistles are:
 - Ephesians
 - Colossians
 - Philippians
 - Philemon
- ❖ Paul remained in Ephesus for nearly three years on his 3rd missionary journey. Acts 18:23 - 19:41
- ❖ “In Christ” is an expression that Paul uses some 200 times in his epistles. It is found 30 times in Ephesians.
- ❖ The city of Ephesus:
 - Was the commercial center of Asia Minor.
 - Famous for the temple of Diana (Roman name) or Artemis (Greek name), considered to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Acts 19:35
- ❖ The Seven Ones of Ephesians 4:4-6:
 - One BODY (Church)
 - One SPIRIT (Holy Spirit)

- One HOPE
 - One LORD (Jesus Christ)
 - One FAITH
 - One BAPTISM (Immersion)
 - One GOD (Jehovah)
- ❖ Blessings for Christians:
- Adoption
 - The seal of the Holy Spirit
 - Acceptance
 - Life
 - Redemption
 - Grace
 - Forgiveness
 - Citizenship
 - Wisdom
 - Every spiritual blessing
 - Inheritance

Hebrew Names of GOD used in Ephesians

NA

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

Ephesians has been called “The Alps of the New Testament,” “The Grand Canyon of Scripture,” and “The Royal Capstone of the Epistles,” not only because of its grand theme, but because of the majesty of Christ revealed here.

Chapter 1: He is the Redeemer (1:7), the One in whom and by whom history will ultimately be consummated (1:10); and He is the Resurrected Lord who not only has risen over death and hell, but who reigns as King, pouring His life through His body, the church—the present expression of Himself on Earth (1:15–23).

Chapter 2: He is the Peacemaker who has reconciled man to God and who makes possible reconciliation of man to man as well (2:11–18); and He is the Chief Cornerstone of the new temple consisting of His own people to be indwelt by God Himself (2:19–22).

Chapter 3: He is the Treasure in whom life's unsearchable riches are found (3:8); and He is the Indweller of human hearts, securing us in the love of God (3:17–19).

Chapter 4: Jesus is the Giver of ministry-gifts to His church (4:7–11); and He is the Victor who has broken hell's ability to keep humankind captive (4:8–10).

Chapter 5: He is the Model Husband, unselfishly giving Himself to enhance His bride—His church (5:25–27, 32).

Chapter 6: He is the Lord, Mighty in Battle, the resource of strength for His own as they arm for spiritual warfare (6:10).

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

As with Christ, the Holy Spirit is revealed in widely varied ministry to and through the believer. In 1:13 He is the Sealer, authorizing the believer to represent Christ; in 1:17 and 3:5 He is the Revealer, enlightening the heart to perceive God's purpose; in 3:16 He is the Empowerer whom Christ gives to strengthen within; in 4:3, 4 He is the Spirit of Unity desiring to sustain the bond of peace in the body of Christ; in 4:30 He is the Spirit of holiness who may be grieved by insistence on carnal pursuits; in 5:18 He is the Fountain, from which all are to be continuously filled; in 6:17, 18 He is the Giver of the Word as a sword for battle and the heavenly Assistant given to aid us in prayer and intercession until victory is won.

Mega Themes of Ephesians

GOD'S PURPOSE

According to God's eternal, loving plan, he directs, carries out, and sustains our salvation.

When we respond to Christ's love by trusting in him, his purpose becomes our mission. Have you committed yourself to fulfilling God's purpose?

CHRIST THE CENTER

Christ is exalted as the center of the universe and the focus of history. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the Creator and sustainer of all creation.

Because Christ is central to everything, his power must be central in us. Begin by placing all your priorities under his control.

LIVING CHURCH

Paul describes the nature of the church. The church, under Christ's control, is a living body, a family, a dwelling. God gives believers special abilities by his Holy Spirit to build the church.

We are part of Christ's body, and we must live in vital union with him. Our conduct must be consistent with this living relationship. Use your God-given abilities to equip believers for service. Fulfill your role in the living church.

NEW FAMILY

Because God through Christ paid our penalty for sin and forgave us, we have been reconciled—brought near to him. We are a new society, a new family. Being united with Christ means we are to treat one another as family members.

We are one family in Christ, so there should be no barriers, no divisions, no basis for discrimination. We all belong to him, so we should live in harmony with one another.

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

Paul encourages all Christians to wise, dynamic Christian living, for with privileges goes family responsibility. As a new community, we are to live by Christ's new standards.

God provides his Holy Spirit to enable us to live his way. To utilize the Spirit's power, we must lay aside our evil desires and draw on the power of his new life. Submit your will to Christ, and seek to love others.

Life Lessons in Ephesians

| Truth | Lesson |
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| <p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>Growing in godliness means learning to live a life that honors God and follows the example of Christ. Live in such a way that your life will be a fragrant offering, pleasing to the Lord.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Make restitution. Repay anything you have stolen and start working so that you can give to others. ❖ Live in Christ's love. Let your life be a fragrant aroma of worship to the Lord. ❖ Live as light. Walk in goodness, righteousness, and truth. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Seek to understand God’s will for your life. Be careful to live wisely, making the most of the time and opportunities you have. ❖ Boldly tell those around you the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. Do not allow circumstances to restrain you from speaking. ❖ Understand that your conduct is the most effective sermon you will ever preach ❖ Live a life that will give consistent undeniable evidence of the truth of the gospel ❖ Model your life after JESUS imitating HIM rather than others ❖ Understand that HE is the perfect example of the love GOD requires ❖ Be continually filled with the HOLY SPIRIT ❖ Overflow with a continual song of praise and thanksgiving to maintain a SPIRIT filled flow in your life ❖ Give yourself to constant faithful prayer ❖ Let GOD change your prayer life to a life of prayer |
| <p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Seek, hunger, and thirst to know and understand the surpassing greatness of Jesus’ love for you. In Him, you are adopted as a child of God. In Him, you are fully accepted. In Him, you will find a love that is</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bless God, your Father. Praise Him who has destined you to be His child, adopted through Jesus Christ. Be comforted and rest, knowing that you are accepted in the Beloved, Jesus. Meditate; think about; ponder these verses. ❖ Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to comprehend the incomparable love of |

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| <p>higher and deeper than you could ever imagine.</p> <p>Through the Spirit, you can begin to know this love and, in knowing it, you will be filled with the fullness of God.</p> <p>Devote yourself to knowing, living, experiencing, and giving Jesus' love.</p> | <p>Christ Jesus for you. Be filled completely with the fullness of God.</p> |
| <p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>Because of the great love God has for us, He has cleansed us by the blood of Jesus, making us holy by His grace.</p> <p>We cannot earn His forgiveness or become holy through our works. It is by grace through faith in Jesus that we are made righteous. However, God has created us to do good works, things He prepared in advance for us to do.</p> <p>Do the good things God gives you to do, but know that you are holy by His grace.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Receive the assurance of full forgiveness for all the wrong you have done. Because of Jesus' blood, shed for you on the cross, you are forgiven and made holy. ❖ Receive the rich mercy, great love, and kindness of God in Christ Jesus. Receive the gift of salvation by grace through faith. Be confident, knowing that God raised you up out of death into life and positioned you securely in Christ. ❖ Be renewed in your heart and mind. Do not live as you did when you did evil things. Put off your old self and put on the new self, created in the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. ❖ Be careful to avoid and reject the world's way of thinking ❖ Realize that thinking as the world does will unavoidably lead to sensuality and impurity |
| <p>The Walk of Faith</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Trust and believe in Jesus. When you believe in Him, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit. |

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| <p>Put your trust in Jesus, receive the Holy Spirit, and stand in faith. Clothe yourself daily with the full armor of God so that you can stand against satanic plans and schemes of the Devil. By faith, understand that we are in a real spiritual battle and must be alert, watching in prayer and praying in the Spirit. Be committed to praying for all believers.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that this is a mark of God's ownership of you, which brings you under His protection and covering. The Spirit is the down payment of the full inheritance to come. ❖ Put on the whole armor of God. Stand as the victor in the spiritual battle. Pray always with every kind of prayer in the Holy Spirit. Be steadfast and watch, ever praying sacrificially and faithfully. |
| <p>Keys to GODly relationships</p> <p>Ephesians has much to say about building godly relationships. This is one of the major themes of the NT. Our relationships are to be loving truthful selfless and submissive. Simply put ephesians exhorts that we relate to others as JESUS relates to the FATHER and to us</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Diligently practice honesty and truthfulness in all your relationships. ❖ Deal with anger quickly not allowing it to influence your treatment of others ❖ Maintain a selflessly submissive attitude in all your family relationships ❖ Understand that this will provide evidence that CHRIST rules your home ❖ Do not be merely a people-pleaser at work ❖ Serve the LORD in all you do ❖ Recognize that it is HE who has assigned you to that post of responsibility. |
| <p>How to tame the tongue</p> <p>Proper speech is crucial to effective Christian living. Proverbs points out that life and death are in the power of the tongue. How important it is for us to realize that our speech can be spiritually motivated</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Be careful how you speak and what you say ❖ Reject evil attitudes and develop compassionate forgiving attitudes toward others ❖ Avoid and reject any impure or immoral speech or behaviour ❖ Be certain that it contradicts your profession of faith in CHRIST |

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| <p>Guidelines to gaining victory</p> <p>Ephesians gives us insight into the nature of the spiritual warfare we face daily. Our combat is against spiritual forces not men. Great is the protection and resources GOD has provided us to meet this enemy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Stand in readiness for spiritual combat ❖ Recognize your demonic enemies are behind much of what comes against you to harm you ❖ Each day consciously put on the spiritual armor of GOD supplies ❖ Learn and understand the nature of this divine protection |
| <p>Keys to wise living</p> <p>Perhaps wisdom is what is most necessary in governing our use of time</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Use time wisely and do not squander it ❖ Be certain that you will an account of how you use GOD's gift of time |
| <p>Keys to generous living</p> <p>Selflessness is most concretely expressed in generosity</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Think of how you can give rather than how you can get |

Praise Points in Ephesians

- ❖ Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm (1:3)
- ❖ His wonderful kindness “poured out on us because we belong to his dearly loved son” (1:6)
- ❖ Fellow christians who have a strong faith in the lord jesus (1:15)
- ❖ Our unity in one spirit, one faith, one baptism with other believers (4:3-5)
- ❖ Everything in the name of our lord jesus christ (5:20)
- ❖ The armor given by God to help us stand firm in our faith (6:11-18).

Worship Insights in Ephesians

Worship can be described as a dialogue of revelation and response: God speaks his word of abundant grace in Christ; God's church responds, echoing the grace of God in word (through praise and prayer) and in deed (through a distinctive Christian lifestyle). Paul's letter to the Ephesians is all about the glorious grace of God freely bestowed on and demonstrated through the body of Christ, the church. Thus, it is eminently a worship book!

Sometimes in worship the church looks back on the rich spiritual blessings of God (chapters 1–3). In 1:3-14, Paul invited those who had trusted in Christ to join him in praising God for choosing them to be holy and without fault in God’s sight. Looking back, the Ephesian believers rejoiced that God had chosen them long before the world began. In 2:1-10, Paul phrased his doctrine of salvation in the language of praise by showing how God loved and forgave the Ephesian believers in Christ Jesus, even when they were dead in their sins, and then created them anew to fulfill his original good plans.

Yet sometimes in worship the church needs to look ahead, to put itself under the challenge of the revealed Word, and to commit itself to obedient response (chapters 4–6). In such forward-thinking worship, the church is called to grow in the Lord and aspire to the full stature of Christ (4:1-16). This involves a renewal of mind and a radical transformation of character and behavior as expressed in community, church, marriage, the family, and the workplace (4:17–6:9). In a sense, worship is a call to arms, exhorting the saints to put on the full armor of God (6:10-20) so they may live out their faith in the world.

- ❖ In worship we rejoice that God pursues us (1:11) and respond by rooting our life deeply in the soil of his love (3:17).
- ❖ Worship involves proclaiming the gospel: “the truth, the Good News that God saves you” (1:13).
- ❖ Worship should be expressed in praise to God (1:3-14).
- ❖ Worship involves prayers of petition (1:15-23; 6:19), adoration (3:14-16), intercession (3:17-19), and benediction (6:23-24).
- ❖ Worship demands that we kneel before the Lord, paying him the honor he deserves (3:14).
- ❖ Worship involves equipping God’s people to do his work (4:12) and living a life filled with love for others (5:2).
- ❖ Worship demands that we yield to Christ’s control in our marriage, family, and workplace (6:1-9).
- ❖ We worship God by putting on the full armor of God (6:11).

An Outline of Ephesians

- I. God's Plan and Our Place in It: Eph_1:1-14**
 - A. Greeting: Eph_1:1-2
 - B. Chosen by God: Eph_1:3-6
 - C. Redeemed by Christ: Eph_1:7-12
 - D. Sealed with the Spirit: Eph_1:13-14

 - II. God's Redemptive Power for a New Humanity: Eph. 1:15-2:22**
 - A. Prayer for Masterful Living: Eph_1:15-19
 - B. The Supremacy of Christ and His Incarnation in the Church: Eph_1:19-23
 - C. God's Power for Redemption: Eph_2:1-10
 - D. The New Humanity: Eph_2:11-18
 - E. A Habitation of God: Eph_2:19-22

 - III. The Mystery and Meaning of Faith: Eph_3:1-21**
 - A. The Mystery Revealed: Eph_3:1-7
 - B. The Purpose of the Mystery: Eph_3:8-13
 - C. The Mystery Revealed in Prayer: Eph_3:14-19
 - D. Doxology: Eph_3:20-21

 - IV. The Church: United in Christ, Propelled by Hope, Equipped for Ministry: Eph_4:1-16**
 - A. Walk Worthy of Your Calling: Eph_4:1-6
 - B. Be Equipped for Ministry: Eph_4:7-12
 - C. Grow Up in Christ: Eph_4:13-16

 - V. The Walk of New Persons: Eph. 4:17-5:21**
 - A. Walk in Newness of Life: Eph_4:17-24
 - B. Some Signs of Newness of Life: Eph_4:25-32
 - C. The Christian Walk: Eph_5:1-21

 - VI. Relationships in Christ: Eph. 5:22-6:9**
 - A. A Model of Christian Marriage: Eph_5:22-33
 - B. Children and Parents—Reciprocal Respect: Eph_6:1-4
 - C. Servants and Masters: Eph_6:5-9
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VII. Strong in the Lord: Eph_6:10-24**A. Put on the Armor of God: Eph_6:10-17****B. Be Watchful in the Spirit: Eph_6:18-20****C. Sustain and Comfort One Another: Eph_6:21-24**