

EPHESIANS

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Special thanks to:

*And, to my wife Shelly for her love and support.
Without you by my side this trip through life would not be possible.*

EPHESIANS:

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Getting the Most Out of This Study

To get the most out of this study of Ephesians follow these helpful suggestions:

Suggestions for Study Participants and Leaders

1. As you begin each reading, pray to God, asking Him to speak to you through His word.
2. Begin your study of Ephesians by first reading Ephesians in your Bible. As a note, the questions in this study incorporate the language of the English Standard Version, so you may wish to use that translation of the Bible for this study.
3. Each reading deals with just one passage, allowing you to delve into the Paul's meaning in context. Read and re-read the assigned passage, taking note of any observations or questions you might have. These notes make for perfect discussion points in a group setting.
4. This is an inductive Bible study, meaning this book includes three types of questions, *observation*, *interpretation* and *application* questions. *Observation* questions ask about the basic facts. *Interpretation* questions delve into the meaning of a passage. *Application* questions help you discover the how the truth of the text can impact your spiritual life. To get the most from these questions, write your answers in the space provided or in a personal journal. Writing brings clarity and a deeper understanding of God's word. It will also help you contribute to a group discussion.
5. It is also be a good idea to have reliable Bible study tools at your disposal, such as: a study bible, commentary, bible dictionary, or online resources.
6. If you are a part of a Bible study group it is especially important that you: (1) Come to the study prepared. (2) Be willing to participate in the discussion by sharing your insights. (3) Listen when others describe what they have learned, you will be amazed at what you can gain from others.
7. If you are leading a Bible study group, it is especially important that you: (1) Come to the study thoroughly prepared. (2) Follow the *Suggestions for a Typical Group Study* below. (3) Encourage participation from everyone.

Suggestions for a Typical Group Study:

1. Begin with prayer, asking for God's guidance in understanding His word.
2. Have a participant read the assigned passage aloud.
3. Share and discuss any observations or questions anyone has from the assigned reading. Assist one another in answering questions prompted by the reading.
4. Work through the discussion questions for each reading. For most of the questions, there is no one "right" response, so share multiple answers from different group members for each question. Doing this will help the group get to the meaning and application of the passage.
5. End your time together with prayer, asking God for strength to live out His word.

*Paul's Epistle
to the Ephesians*

Study #1 – Ephesians 1:1-14

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #1 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.

2. What information do you learn from the opening lines of this letter? (vv. 1-2)

3. According to Paul, what blessings have we received from...

God the Father (vv. 3-6)	Jesus Christ (vv. 7-12)	The Holy Spirit (vv. 13-14)

4. What do you think are the implications of the jubilant phrase, "*to the praise of the glory of His grace*" (vv. 6, 12, 14)? How can we live out this truth each day?

5. Choose one blessing mentioned in our reading, then write out at least three ways this blessing influences your life daily.

Study #2 – Ephesians 1:15-23

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #2 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. Note the connecting phrase "*For this reason*" (v. 15a). How does this passage link back with to the previous one?
3. What truths did Paul pray the Ephesians would know on an increasingly deeper level? (vv. 16-19)
4. Why do you think he focuses his prayer in this way?
5. In practical terms, describe how one acquires a deeper knowledge of these truths.
6. If someone were to pray for you, or your church, as Paul did in our passage today, what is one specific way you would want God to change your life or church?

Study #3 – Ephesians 2:1-10

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #3 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. Based on Paul's vivid description, contrast our spiritual state before and after Christ. (vv. 1-7)
3. Imagine you're talking to a friend about salvation, using v. 8a as your starting point, explain the relationship of grace and faith? (cf. Romans 3:20-31; 4:13-5:2; Titus 3:3-7)
4. What do you perceive to be the *dangers* of a works-based salvation and the *blessings* of a grace-based salvation? (vv. 8b-9)
5. From v. 10, how does Paul express salvation as an intimately personal relationship with God?
6. Using your bible's cross-references and/or concordance find other passages that speak of doing good. From your findings, sketch out the role "*good works*" should play in your life.

Study #4 – Ephesians 2:11-22

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #4 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. Notice the connecting word "*therefore*" in v. 11. How does this passage relate back to 2:1-10?
3. In your own words, describe Jew & Gentile relations with each other and God before the coming of Christ Jesus? (vv. 11-12)
4. Why is Jesus' life and death the only equalizing force that can bring peace between Jew & Gentile, or better yet all humanity? (vv. 13-18; cf. Romans 10:9-13)
5. How do the images Paul uses in vv. 19-20 further emphasize Christian unity? (ref. 1 Peter 2:4-10)
6. How easy or difficult do you think it was for the Ephesians to live out the oneness they were called to as fellow believers in Christ? What, if any, parallels confront the church today?

Study #5 – Ephesians 3:1-13

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #5 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.

2. How does the phrase, "*For this reason...*" link vv. 1-13 with what Paul has already written?

3. The central focus of this section is the "*mystery of Christ*":
 - a. From vv. 5 & 9-10, construct your own definition of a biblical "*mystery*." (ref. 1 Pet 1:10-12)

 - b. In your own words, summarize the "*mystery of Christ*". (v. 6)

 - c. Using a concordance, find other instances in the New Testament where a "*mystery*" is revealed.

4. Explain why you think Paul refers to his difficult ministry of revealing the "*mystery of Christ*" as a "*grace*" (vv. 2, 7-8) and the resulting imprisonment as "*glory*" (v. 13). (ref. 6:19-20;)

5. In what ways is Paul's attitude toward his ministry an excellent model of how you should approach your own work as a Christian? (cf. 6:18b-20)

Study #6 – Ephesians 3:14-21

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #6 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. Again Paul begins with "*For this reason...*" How does his thoughts in the previous passage influence his prayer in vv. 14-21?
3. From your perspective, what seems to be the focus of this prayer?
4. Select one truth from this beautiful prayer and in your own words explain what the expression means and how it impacts your spiritual life.
5. Combining Paul's thoughts in vv. 11-12 & 20, share what you think should be your attitude as you approach God in prayer.
6. In what way(s) are Paul's prayers in Ephesians (ref. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; 6:23-24) similar to or different from the types of prayers offered by you or those in your congregation?

Study #7 - Ephesians 4:1-13

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #7 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. What are the characteristics of a life which is worthy of our calling? (vv. 1-3)
3. Why are these virtues important for maintaining "*the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" (v.3)?
4. How do the seven "ones" of vv. 4-6 further contribute to establishing unity among believers?
5. In vv. 7-16 Paul acknowledges that diversity exists within the body of Christ. Explain how this diversity helps strengthen our unity? (cf. Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31)
6. What is one practical way you can contribute to the unity Paul urges us toward in this passage?

Study #8 - Ephesians 4:17-32

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #8 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. How does Paul describe a sinful Gentile's mind, heart, and resulting lifestyle? (vv.17-19)
3. In your own words, describe the teaching the Ephesians had received from the apostle and how it contrasted with their old ways of thinking and living. (vv. 20-24)
4. From vv. 25-32, record what Christians are to "put off," "put on" and the reasons why we should do this. (You might need to use your notes page for extra space.)
5. Looking back over your list, which of the commands you recorded has God especially strengthen you to obey? Explain how He has done this.
6. In v. 30, Paul ends by telling us not to "grieve the Holy Spirit." How do the following two verses (31-32) help explain what Paul means by an offense against God's Spirit?

Study #9 – Ephesians 5:1-21

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #9 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. How does “*Therefore...*” link 5:1-21 with the content of 4:17-32?
3. Survey vv. 1-21 and briefly contrast the actions and attitudes of the “*beloved children of God*” with those of the “*sons of disobedience.*”
4. Why do you think the temptation is strong to join those in darkness (vv. 6-11a) rather than exposing their wicked deeds to the light of truth (vv. 11b-14)?
5. In your own words, explain Paul’s remedies for such temptations. (vv. 15-21)
6. Paul ends this long section (4:17-5:21) with a reference to singing. In context, what role(s) are “*songs, hymns and spiritual songs*” supposed to fill in the life of believers? How is this similar to or different from how singing/songs are used by you or your church?

Study #10 - Ephesians 5:22-33

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #10 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. Define what it means for a wife to “*submit*” to her husband and provide everyday examples. (v. 22-24)
3. Define what it means for a husband to “*love*” his wife and provide everyday examples. (vv. 25-30)
4. Why do you think Paul used the relationship of Christ and His church as an illustration of how wives and husbands are to interact? (vv. 23-24, 25-30)
5. How do vv. 31-33 summarize the apostle’s teaching on the unity that is to exist between wives and husbands?
6. What would marriages (even your marriage) be like if these inspired teachings were followed?

Study #11 - Ephesians 6:1-9

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #11 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. Describe what it means for children to obey and honor their parents? (vv. 1-2) You might focus on the application of this passage at different stages of life.
3. In your own life (or in the lives of others), how have you seen the promise given in v. 3 fulfilled?
4. In what ways can fathers (and mothers) practice the twofold command of v. 4?
5. Exactly how can the principles Paul outlines in vv. 5-9 be lived out in modern life?
6. Choose one role from 5:22-6:9: wife, husband, child, parent, employee or employer/supervisor. When is it hard for you to follow Paul's instructions and what will help you change?

Study #12 - Ephesians 6:10-24

In the space below, write any observations or questions you have regarding the assigned reading.

Study #12 Questions:

1. Give this passage a title and in one sentence summarize the main point.
2. In what ways are Christians like soldiers? (ref. 2 Timothy 2:3-4; 4:7)
3. Using vv. 11-12 as a guide, state in your own words the nature of the battle in which we as Christian soldiers are engaged.
4. Identify the six pieces of God-provided armor and a specific way we “*take up*” each piece today. (vv. 13-17; cf. 2 Corinthians 10:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:8)
5. What role does prayer play in our spiritual battle? (vv.18; Colossians 4:2, 12-13)
6. Finally, what do you learn from the closing lines of this letter? (vv. 21-24)