

Ephesians Week #1

Ephesians Background:

- Written by the Apostle Paul while in prison or under “house arrest.”
- Written to early Christians in Ephesus about A.D. 60-62 (probably written about the same time as Colossians).
- Ephesus was the capital of the Roman Province of Asia (Asia Minor, modern day Turkey). It may have been written to the church at Ephesus and then circulated among the other churches of Asia Minor.
- Paul first arrived in Ephesus near the end of his second missionary journey (Acts 18:18-21) and then returned to spend almost 3 years there (Acts 18:22 – 20:1)
- The Ephesian Elders were very close to Paul (Acts 20:16-38)
- Ignatius (later Bishop of Antioch) supposedly wrote to the Ephesians. Chapter 6 of his letter commands them to revere Bishops as if they were Christ Himself!

*Chapters 1-3 = Theology

*Chapters 4-6 = Practical

Ephesians 1:1-10

I. Who are the Ephesians?

- Acts 19 (the church in Ephesus begins)
- Timothy becomes the pastor at Ephesus
*1 Timothy 1:1-7
- Later, John writes a “Revelation” to Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)

II. (v.3-6) Everything is about Jesus!

- (v.3) makes it clear that God provides all we need! (see 2Peter 1:3)
- (v.4) These passages often become the focus of “Predestination.”
 - The focus here should be **salvation & God’s will**, rather than specific theologies/doctrines.
 - Predestination, Free-will, Eternal Security and other theologies and doctrines become distraction from the important topic of **salvation!**
 - The phrasing “*before the foundation of the world*” demonstrates that God had a plan of salvation from the very beginning and it was instituted in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3.
- (v.5-6) God’s intention is for you to be saved and be ***in Christ!***
 - *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will*

*know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.
-John 17:20-13 (Jesus prayed this in the garden)*

III. (v.7-10) God's plan of salvation has been ready to be put into effect since even before sin entered the world!

- And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." – Genesis 3:15
- (v.9) God has revealed his will to us through Christ!
 - *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. –Romans 12:2*

Ephesians Week #2

Ephesians 1:11-23

IV. (v.11-12)

- (v.11) He makes everything work for good!
 - *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. –Romans 8:28*
 - *Consider this... When Saul responded negatively to God and persecuted Christians, God still used him to further the Gospel message beyond Jerusalem!
- (v.12)'s reference to "*we, who were first*" refers to the Jews who were the first Christians before the Gospel was preached to the Gentiles. This passage is making it clear that the Jewish Christians are not better than the Gentile Christians, but that their salvation is through Jesus Christ!

V. (v.13) Salvation is not ONLY for the Jews.

- There was a common false-teaching going around in the early church that you had to convert to Judaism before you could become a Christian.
- Galatians 1:6-8
- Galatians 2:11-21
- Galatians 3:1-6

VI. (v.14) The Holy Spirit is the evidence of our salvation & that we are God's children!

- *Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. –Romans 8:8-9*
- Romans 8:14-17
- John 8:39-47
- Galatians 5:13-26 describes what the evidence of the Holy Spirit looks like.

VII.(v.15-16) Paul is thankful for the faith & faithfulness of the Ephesians. Notice their "love for all God's people" is mentioned in v.15! In Revelation 2:1-7, the church in Ephesus is told that they have "forsaken their first love!"

VIII. (v.17-19) Paul's desire is for the Ephesians to know God more and more deeply and to use the tools that God has provided to walk through life with him.

IX. (20-21) We have the same power that raise Christ from the dead!

- *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. –Romans 8:11*

- X. (v.22-23) Christ is the head and the church is described at the "body."
- This same imagery is reflected in...
 - Ephesians 3, 4 & 5
 - Romans 12
 - 1 Corinthians 12
 - Colossians 1 & 3

Ephesians 2:1-10

- I. (v.1-3) We need a Savior!
- This a reminder that even "good people" need a Savior and that the wages of sin is death!"
 - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 6:23*
 - Romans 2:1-11 gives us a clear description of God's wrath.
 - "Ruler of the kingdom of the air" is Satan!
 - *Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. -John 12:31-33*
 - *I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, -John 14:30*
 - *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. -1 John 5:19*
 - This shows us that there is a difference between "human values" or our own "morality" and God's values/morality.
 - Disobedience is described in (v.3) as "gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature"
 - Galatians 5:16-26
- II. (v.4-10) The message in this passage is reminiscent of Romans 6.
- (v.4-5) Because God loves us so much, we are able to crucify our sinful nature and be made alive in Christ (born again).
 - Romans 8:1-17
 - (v.6) Points out that we are "*seated with Christ in the heavenly realms;*" this is a reminder that we are "joint heirs" with Jesus!
 - *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. -Romans 8:16-17*
 - *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ,*

*then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. -
Galatians 3:26-29*

***Consider this...** Your role after Judgment Day is to sit with Christ and judge the rest of creation! (1 Corinthians 6:1-3)

- (v.10) Makes is clear that we were created to do good works and for righteousness!

Ephesians week #3

Ephesians 2:11-22

*Unity of believers is the theme for the rest of Chapter 2.

- I. (v.11-13) Points out that all believers (Jews & Gentiles) are one under the covering of Christ's blood!
 - Romans 11:11-24
 - This message is a key theme to Galatians!

- II. (v.14-16) Unity is NOT achieved by becoming "tolerant" to sin, but by being subject to Christ! (this subject is further explained in the later chapters of Ephesians).
 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. -Romans 3:23-24*

- III. (v.17-18) Christ has given us access to the Father and the Holy Spirit.
 - *At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split -Matthew 27:51*
 - *The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. -Mark 15:38*
 - *for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. - Luke 23:45*

- IV. (v.19) Nationality means nothing; citizenship in the kingdom of God is what matters!

- V. (v.20) The Gospel is the foundation of our faith & Christ is described as the "corner stone."
 - *Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. - Matthew 21:42-43*
 - This is also mentioned in **Mark 12:10 & Luke 20:17.**
 - Peter refers to Jesus Christ as the "cornerstone" in Acts 4:8-12

- VI. (v.21-22) With Christ as our "Cornerstone," we are the temple of the Holy Spirit!
 - *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. -1 Corinthians 3:16-17*

- *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; -1 Corinthians 6:19*

Ephesians 3:1-13

- I. (v.1-3) Salvation is for the Gentiles too!
 - Paul summarizes some of his earlier statements about the Gentiles.

- II. (v.4-6) God's will has been made known to us!
 - Paul writes this to help inform the church of God's will for them as believers!
 - The "*mystery of Christ*" or God's plan to send the Messiah has now been revealed since Christ rose from the grave and we have received the Holy Spirit!
 - (v.6) summarizes much of what Paul wrote in Chapter 2.

- III. (v.7-9) Paul refers to his humble calling into ministry
 - (v.7-8) Refers to Paul's extreme conversion & calling! (see Acts 9:1-31)
 - (v.9) clearly states 2 points...
 1. The "*mystery of Christ*" is to be plainly explained to all people
 2. God created everything

- IV. (v.10-13)
 - God's glory and power are revealed in Christ conquering the grave and our salvation through His death & resurrection.
 - (v.10) makes it clear that all spiritual beings (angels & demons) now know God's plan of salvation. Satan & the demons did not know how this plan was to work previous to Christ's resurrection. (see 1 Corinthians 2:6-16)
 - (v.12) Shows us that God has made himself approachable to us! This is reminiscent of Hebrews 4:17, "*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*"

Ephesians 3:14-21 (these verses reflect Paul's prayer for the Ephesians)

- I. (v.14-15) Believers (past, present & future) are all a part of the "family of God!"

- II. (v.16-19) Now we begin to see the tone of Paul's letter change from "Theology & Doctrine" to "Life Application."
 - (v.16) One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to strengthen us! God always works from the inside out.
 - (v.17) be rooted in God's love! Jesus gave his disciples these instructions in the Upper Room...

- *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." -John 13:34-35*
- *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love." -John 15:9-10*
- *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." -John 15:12*
- (v.18-19) God wants us to know how much He loves us!

III. (v.20) His power in us is beyond our imagination!

IV. (v.21) It's all about Jesus!

Ephesians week #4

*Chapter 4 is the beginning of the "Practical (Life) Application" part of Ephesians.

Ephesians 4:1-6

- I. These verses show us how to "*live a life worthy of our calling.*"
- This is only possible when we are rooted in God's love (see 1 Corinthians 13)
 - This is also only possible when you live being led by the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:13-26)
 - (v.3) The "Peace of God" only comes through the Holy Spirit. Peace between people requires **effort!**
 - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:6-7*
 - {see 1 Corinthians 12:7-13}
 - {see Colossians 3:12-17}
 - *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. -Romans 12:18*
 - (v.4-6) also give us a picture of the "Trinity"
 - "one Spirit" (Holy Spirit) {v.4}
 - "one Lord" (Son) {v.5}
 - "one God & Father" (Father) {v.6}
 - (v.4-6) also give us a picture of "**Unity (oneness)**"
 - "**One body**" -The church is the body with Christ as the head. This is all believers since Pentecost!
 - "**One hope**" -Our "hope" is eternal salvation through Jesus Christ (or *in Christ*) {see Romans 5:1-5}
 - "**One Lord**" -Jesus Christ is Lord of Lords & King of Kings! The ONLY Savior!
 1. *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." -John 14:6*
 2. *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved -Acts 4:12*
 3. *For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him -Romans 10:12*
 - "**One faith**" -The only "faith" that can save a person is faith in Jesus Christ. Christians are called to defend this faith!
 1. *Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. -Jude 1:3 (NLT)*
 - "**One baptism**" -This explains that there is no need to keep getting re-baptized over and over again. In this passage, it is implied that

believers are already "baptized in the Spirit" in (v.4). {see Acts 19:1-7} {see Colossians 2:6-15}

- **"One God"** -This is the basic doctrine taught throughout scripture
 1. *He showed you these things so you would know that the LORD is God and there is no other. -Deuteronomy 4:25 (NLT)*
 2. *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. -Deuteronomy 6:4*
 3. *{see 1 Corinthians 8:4-6}*
 4. The First Commandment is, *"You shall have no other gods before me." -Exodus 20:3*

Ephesians 4:7-16

- I. (v.7-10) These verses explain that Jesus Christ is the only one qualified to give grace and spiritual gifts to mankind!
- God has gifted us each differently for our own benefit and for the benefit of His kingdom! {see 1 Corinthians 12}
 - (v.7) is reminiscent of what Paul writes to the Corinthians.
 - *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. -2 Corinthians 12:9*
 - (v.8-10) This is a description of Christ's trip from Heaven to earth, to the grave (Hades, Hell, Sheol), earth and back to Heaven.
 - Before Christ's conquering of the grave, "believers" went to "Paradise" (Abraham's side/bosom) {see Luke 16:19-31} This is the place the Catholic Church calls "Purgatory."
 - This is the "lower earthly regions," or "depths of the earth."
 - Christ's trip included his taking the keys of death from Satan.
 1. *I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. -Revelation 1:18*
 - After His resurrection, Christ ascends into heaven to sit at the right hand of the throne of the Father.
 1. *After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. -Mark 16:19*
 2. *While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. -Luke 24:51*
 3. *God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. -Acts 2:32-33*
 4. *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. -Hebrews 1:3*

- (v.10) *"in order to fill the whole universe"* refers to Christ's majesty and God's omnipresence.
 - {see Colossians 1:15-23}
 - *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. -Colossians 2:9-10*

- II. (v.11-16) is a description of how the Body is to mature and grow in Christ!
 - (v.11-13) point out that God calls and equips individuals for ministry.
 - (v.11-12) point out that the role of those in "set apart ministry" to *"prepare God's people for works of service."* This means that it should NOT be up to the "pastor(s)" to do everything. {see 1 Timothy 4:1-6} {see 2 Timothy 2:14-19, 22-26 & 2 Timothy 3:1 - 4:5}
 - (v.13-14) make it clear that should constantly be maturing in our faith! {see Hebrews 5:11-14} {see 1 Corinthians 3:1-15}
 - *Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. -1 Corinthians 14:20*
 - (v.15-16) **Truth & love** are the keys to building each other up and maturing in our faith together!

Ephesians 4:17-32

- I. (v.17-18) Those who have not accepted Christ do not have the correct mindset (the "mind of Christ").
 - When we establish our own "morals" rather than living by God's instruction (and being led by the Holy Spirit), we no longer see a need for God!
 - *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. -Romans 8:5-8*
 - {see 1 Corinthians 2:10-16}
 - *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. -Romans 12:2*
 - *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: -Philippians 2:5*
 - *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things**. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. -Philippians 4:8-9*

- II. (v.19) When we do not listen to the Holy Spirit, we lose "sensitivity" to God's voice and are given over to our own desires & lusts (which are unfulfilling).
- *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. -1 Timothy 4:1-2*
 - {see Romans 1:28-32}
- III. (v.20-24) Believers should be "new creations" in Christ! Believers should know better!
- *Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. -James 1:21-22*
 - In this passage, Paul affirms that the Ephesians were correctly taught the message of salvation through Christ, but also reminds them in a short summary.
 - *Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to **remind you of them again**, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. -Romans 15:15-16*
 - *For this reason **I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. -2 Timothy 1:6*
 - ***So I will always remind you of these things**, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. -2 Peter 1:12*
 - *Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. **I have written both of them as reminders** to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. -2 Peter 3:1*
- IV. (v.25-32)
- (v.25) tells us that we are actually **damaging** to the Body of Christ when we are not truthful (speak the truth in love)! Christians are called to be "trustworthy" people!
 - (v.26) contrary to what many Christians think, *being angry* is NOT a sin. However, anger (especially w/ selfish motive) often leads us into sinful acts.
 - *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. -James 1:19-20*
 - *Don't sin by letting anger control you. Think about it overnight and remain silent. -Psalm 4:4 (NLT)*
 - The phrasing "*do not let the sun go down*" simply refers to **not prolonging** issues and arguments.
 - Jesus displayed a "righteous anger" during His ministry on earth...

- *Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. -Matthew 21:12*
- *He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus. - Mark 3:5*
- *In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. - John 2:14-15*
- (v.27-29) are pretty self-explanatory
 - (v.28) does point out that we should work hard to share with those in need. This implies that we should continually work to be in a position to be a blessing to others.
- (v.30) God is actually *grieved* by our lack of being "Christ-like"
- (v.31-32) are also self-explanatory
- Note in (v.32), Paul's use of the phrase "*just as Christ God forgave you.*"
 - *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. -Matthew 6:12-15*

Ephesians Week #5

Ephesians 5:1-20

- I. (v.1) is reminiscent of (*Ephesians 4:1*) where we are instructed to *"live a life worthy of the calling you have received."*
- (v.1) also points out that since we are "God's children," we should live like we are His children!
 1. **Innocent-** (Christ said that we must accept the Kingdom of God as a child) *see Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16 & Luke 18:15-17
 - *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." -Matthew 10:16*
 - *Acquitting the guilty and condemning the **innocent**— the Lord detests them both. -Proverbs 17:15*
 - *Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. -Romans 16:19*
 2. **Heirs-** *(see notes about **Ephesians 2:6**)
 - *He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. -John 1:11-13*
 - *It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be **heir** of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are **heirs**, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless -Romans 4:13-14*
 - *He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become **heirs** having the hope of eternal life. -Titus 3:5b-7*
 - *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as **heirs** with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. -1 Peter 3:7*
 - *Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. -Revelation 21:7*
 3. **Trusting-** (Trusting Christ is a trait of being a "child of God") *see John 14
 - *see (Romans 4:13-14) above!
 - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. -Proverbs 3:5-6*

- *However, to the one who does not work but **trusts** God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. - Romans 4:5*
- *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you **trust** in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. -Romans 15:13*
- *Understand, then, that **those who have faith** are children of Abraham. -Galatians 3:7*
- *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God **through faith**. - Galatians 3:26*

4. Imitating- (children quickly learn to imitate and learn by imitating... so "children of God" should imitate God)!

- *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and **imitate their faith** -Hebrews 13:7*
- *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. -1 Corinthians 11:1*
- *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. -1 Peter 1:14*
- *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. -1 John 3:1 *(see John 1:11-13 above)*
- *This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister -1 John 3:10*
- *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. -1 John 3:18*
- *This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. -1 John 5:2*
- *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. -3 John 1:4*

II. (v.2) "Love" is what should define us as Christians!

- **1 Corinthians 13**
- **1 John 3:7-24**
- *see notes about "Ephesians 3:17"
- Real "love" is about putting others before ourselves.
- **Romans 12:9-21**

III. (v.3-7) There should not even be a "hint" of these things in our lives!

- (v.5) points out that a greedy person is an idolater!
 - *Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless. -Ecclesiastes 5:10*

- *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. -Matthew 6:24*
- Luke 16
- *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. -1 Timothy 6:10*
- *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." -Hebrews 13:5*
- (v.6) Do NOT be deceived into false doctrine & bad theology!
 - 1 Timothy 1:3-7
 - 1 Timothy 4
 - *If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. -1 Timothy 6:3-5*
 - 2 Timothy 3
- (v.7) is a warning about partnering with people who do these things!
 1. *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? -2 Corinthians 6:14*

IV. (v.8-14) WE are the "Light of the world," and JESUS is the "Light of Men!"

**"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill that cannot be hidden." - Matthew 5:14*

**In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not understood it. -John 1:4-5*

** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." -John 9:5*

- **John 1:1-14**
- *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. -1 John 1:5*
- *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. -1 John 1:7*
- *Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. -1 John 2:9-10*
- *They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. - John 17:16-19*
- *Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked*

*generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky -
Philippians 2:14-15*

- *You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. -1 Thessalonians 5:5-6*
 - *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. -2 Corinthians 4:4*
 - *(v.10)'s instruction to "find out what pleases the Lord" is in sharp contrast to our culture wants to know, "How much can I sin before going to hell?"*
- V. (v.15-16) is a challenge to "be wise" and know God's word and to "make the most of every opportunity" b/c this world is full of evil.
- *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - John 16:33*
 - *Matthew 4*
 - *Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. -Proverbs 3:7*
 - *The wise fear the Lord and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure. -Proverbs 14:16*
 - *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." -Matthew 7:24 (Matthew 7:24-27) (Luke 6:46-49)*
 - *By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a **wise** builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. -1 Corinthians 3:10*
 - *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. -Colossians 4:5*
 - *and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. -2 Timothy 3:15*
- VI. (v.17) We are to seek, find and know God's will!
- **see notes on "Ephesians 1:7-10"*
 - *Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." -Mark 3:35*
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:3-8**
 - *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. -1 Thessalonians 5:18*
 - *For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. -1 Peter 2:15*
- VII. (v.18) in the same way that an individual's personality is transformed when under the influence of alcohol, so should we be transformed by being "under the influence" of the Holy Spirit!
- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! -2 Corinthians 5:17*
 - *Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. -Galatians 6:15*

- It's also interesting to note that many times in scripture, Christians who were "under the influence" of the Holy Spirit were thought by others to be drunk!
 - *Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk -1 Samuel 1:13*
 - *Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." -Acts 2:13 (Acts 2:1-41)*

VIII. (v.19-20) Encourage one another, build each other up and be thankful!

Ephesians 5:21-33

I. (v.21) "Submitting to one another," or putting others before yourself is an attribute of the Love of God in our lives! This is part of what defines us as Christians!

- Romans 12:9-21 also defines this Love (especially v.10)
- Part of "submitting" is to be "teachable," or have a teachable spirit, but true wisdom comes from God.
 - *Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. -2 John 1:9*
 - **Proverbs 1:1-9**
 - *Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. -Proverbs 9:9*
 - *The wise store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin. - Proverbs 10:14*
 - *The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. - Proverbs 12:15*
 - **Ecclesiastes 12:11-12**
 - *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. -Matthew 11:29*
 - *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. -John 15:15*
 - *Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. - 1 Corinthians 4:6*
 - **1 Timothy 1:1-7**
 - **1 Timothy 4**
 - **2 Timothy 2**
 - *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, -2 Timothy 3:16*

- *For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. -2 Timothy 4:3*
- **Titus 2**
- **2 Peter 2**

II. (v.22-24) is one of the most misunderstood passages of scripture!

- This passage should never "stand alone," but be read IN CONTEXT (verses 21-33 is one continual thought).
- Submission is NOT oppression, but rather respect. (see v.33)

***Point to Ponder;** some other misunderstood scriptures about women!

- *Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. -1 Corinthians 14:34-35.*
 - **In context = 1 Corinthians 14:26-40**
- *A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. -1 Timothy 2:11-13*
 - **In context = 1 Timothy 2:8-15**

III. (v.25-33)

- The instruction given to husbands is to "step up" and take responsibility as a man of God!
- Husbands are commanded here to be an example of Christ to their wives!
- (v.28) also shows husbands that if they love themselves, then it will be evident by how he loves his wife!

Ephesians Week #6

***Note:**

- Ephesians 5:21 - 6:9 point out a "household code," or "hierarchy" of families that existed in the culture & time period of the New Testament (husbands & wives, parents & children, and servants).
- Jesus uses this same "hierarchy" as He explains (to His disciples in the Upper Room) God's relationship with us.
 - *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." -John 14:18*
 - *"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." -John 15:15*

Ephesians 6:1-9

- I. (v.1) note the phrase "in the Lord."
 - Obedience to God first! Obey your parents so long as they are not commanding you to disobey God!
- II. (v.2-3) Here Paul points out that this Commandment has a promise attached to it!
- III. (v.4) Again, challenges the men to "step up" and be examples of Christ to your children!

Ephesians 6:5-9

- I. (v.5) In our "western" culture, we have a skewed view of "slavery." When the Bible mentions the relationship between slaves and masters, it is NOT referring to one race vs. another, but rather to "bond-servants" and "managers."
 - One usually became a slave because a debt was owed that he could not pay back and was indebted to the "master."
 - (v.5) speaks to those who owe a debt and that they should work off their debts as if they are working unto the Lord.
- II. (v.6-8) Continue on with the same premise as (v.5) and then takes it a step further by stating that good work is not only to "impress the boss," but also to please God by having a good "work ethic," and that God does not show favoritism!
 - *There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. -Galatians 3:28*
- III. (v.9) warns "masters" to treat their slaves/servants not just as "employees, but also as brothers/sisters in Christ, pointing out again that God does not show favoritism!
 - A great example of this is the book of Philemon. {see Philemon 1:8-16}

Ephesians 6:10-20

- I. (v.10) Living Godly lives requires strength (strength that comes from God)

- II. (v.11-13) Be ready to stand your ground. Our battle is against the devil, not each other.
- III. (v.14) Truth & Righteousness are requirements for living Godly lives.
- *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. -John 14:6*
 - {see John 8}
 - Truth is likened to a "belt" b/c the Roman soldier's belt held his armor together.
 - Righteousness is defined as "trusting God."
 - *What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." -Romans 4:3*
 - Righteousness is likened to a "breastplate." The Roman soldier's breastplate protected his vital organs. In the same way, our trust in God protects us.
 - *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. -Proverbs 4:23*
- IV. (v.15) The Gospel is what we firmly stand upon! The Roman soldier would fit his feet with sandals that had cleats on the soles so as to not lose his footing in battle.
- In the same way, we must keep our footing as we plant ourselves upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - {see Matthew 7:24-27}
 - {see Luke 6:46-49}
 - {see Galatians 1:6-9}
 - It's also interesting to note that scripture says that the devil (our adversary) is "under our feet!"
 - *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. -Romans 16:20*
- V. (v.16) Faith is likened to a shield that extinguishes Satan's attack! The Roman soldier would use his shield to extinguish flaming arrows as he and his cohorts advanced into battle.
- In the same way, our faith in God is NOT a crutch, but rather protection as we advance through life.
- VI. (v.17) The Romans soldier's helmet not only provided protection for his head, but also showed his rank and revealed to which unit he belonged.
- This instruction shows us that because we bear the rank of "God's children," we then belong to Christ. It is because of His plan of salvation that empowers us to have the "mind of Christ," to be able to take ungodly thoughts captive!
 - *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. -2 Corinthians 10:5*
 - (v.17) also clearly states that the "Word of God," is our main weapon! Jesus demonstrated how to use this "weapon" in **Matthew 4!**

- VII.** (v.18) This is a "call to arms" for the church! Prayer is a powerful necessity for the Christian. Part of our "prayer lives" should not only be to talk to God, but to be alert and listening as well.
- VIII.** (v.19-20) Here, Paul continues to share how important is it to keep praying for each other as he asks the Ephesians to keep praying for him.

Ephesians 6:21-24

- I.** (v.21-22) These verses are self-explanatory as Paul was making arrangement for his companion, Tychicus.
- II.** (v.23-24) Paul "bookends" his letter by again sharing God's grace & peace, but now also reinforces the importance of loving God and loving each other.
- *Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." -Matthew 22:34-40*