

Ephesians

- Author:** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ (Acts 9)
- Time:** Paul wrote this letter around AD 62, while under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28). Paul ministered in Ephesus for three years (Acts 20:31), before being imprisoned in Caesare for two years (Acts 21:15-26:32). Paul was then sent to Rome, where he was imprisoned for another two years (Acts 27:1 – 28:31).
- Genre:** Letter
- Audience:** Letter was written to believers in Ephesus. Ephesus was a leading city in the region of Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Ephesians is known as one of the four “Prison Letters”. The other three are: Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon
- Themes:** The letter summarizes the gospel of God’s grace, and explains the nature of the church. The unity of the church is a key theme in the book. The first section of the book (chapters 1-30) is theological and explains who Christians are. The second section is ethical (Chapters 4-6) and covers how Christians should behave.

Things to Look For

- Chapter 1: Where does faith come from? Who has faith? Ten things that God did for you the moment you got saved.
- Chapter 2: What happened when you got Saved?
- Chapter 3: What is the “Mystery?”; How do we benefit from it.
- Chapter 4: Seven signs of immaturity. Five signs of a spiritually mature Christian.
Four things that will kill a relationship.
- Chapter 5: What is the filling of the Spirit (5:18) and how does being filled with the Spirit compare to being filled with alcohol? Read Acts 4:8, 9:17, 13:9, 13:52
Who should be submissive? Read Luke 2:51, Luke 10:17, Rom. 13:1, 5, 1 Cor. 15:27; Eph. 1:22, 1 Cor. 15:28, James 4:6-7,
- Chapter 6: Who are Christians at war with? What kind of war is it? How do Christians fight this war? Read 2 Cor 10:1-5. What does each part of the armor represent? How is the sword of the Spirit, different from the rest of the armor?

OUTLINE

Section I: Theology – Chapters 1-3

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. The Plan of Redemption and Unity of the Church (1:3–3:21)
 - a. Theological Preface: Why God is Blessed and Should be Praised (1:3-14)
 - i. The work of the Father: He has blessed and chosen us in Christ. (1:3-6)
 - ii. The work of the Son: He redeemed believers through His blood (1:7-12)
 - iii. The work of the Spirit: He seals believers as God's cherished possessions (1:13-14)
 - b. Prayer for Knowledge: To Understand the Church's Positional Unity (1:15-23)
 - i. The Content of the Prayer: Insight into the nature of redemption (1:15-19)
 - ii. The Immensity of God's Resources and the nature of Christ (1:20-23)
 - c. Reconciliation: Transition from spiritual death to spiritual life (2:1-10)
 - i. The Individual Believer's Former State (2:1-3)
 - ii. The Individual Believer's Present State (2:4-10)
 - d. Horizontal (Jew to Gentile) and Reconciliation (2:11-22)
 - i. Redemption is for all without regard to race (2:11-13)
 - ii. Redemption unites all people as one in Christ (2:14-22)
 1. The Peace which Christ Accomplished in His Death (2:14-18)
 2. The Foundation which Christ Laid through His Apostles (2:19-22)
 - e. Paul's Relation to the Mystery of this New Spiritual Community (3:1-13)
 - i. The Content of the Mystery Revealed to Paul (3:1-7)
 - ii. The Wisdom of the Mystery Revealed to Angelic Beings (3:8-13)
 - f. Prayer for Love: To Maintain the Church's Unity (3:14-21)
 - i. The Content of the Prayer (3:14-19)
 - ii. The Immensity of God's Resources (3:20-21)

Section II: Ethics - Chapters 4-6

- III. The Unity of the Church (4:1–6:20)
 - a. Maintaining Unity through Diversity (4:1-16)
 - i. Maintaining the Unity (4:1-6)
 - ii. The Diversity of Spiritual Gifts in Contributing toward Unity (4:7-16)
 - b. Desires an practice of old life are ended (4:17-32)
 - i. Morality and the Former Lifestyle (4:17-24)
 - ii. Negative Example: Pagans (4:17-19)
 - iii. Positive Basis: Death of the “Old Man” (4:20-24)
 - iv. Morality and the Present Life in Christ (4:25-32)
 - c. The Believer’s Relation to Unbelievers (5:1-14)
 - i. Do Not Conform to their Sinfulness. Walk in Love (5:1-7)
 - ii. Confront them with the Gospel. Walk in Light (5:8-14)
 - d. The Believer’s Relation to the Spirit (5:15-6:9)
 - i. The Admonition for Spirit-Filling (5:15-21)
 - ii. The Test of Spirit-Filling: The Believer’s Relation to the Extended Family (5:22–6:9)
 - 1. Wives and Husbands (5:22-33)
 - 2. Children and Parents (6:1-4)
 - 3. Slaves and Masters (6:5-9)
- IV. Spiritual Warfare (6:10-20)
 - i. Know that God is your ally and Satan is your enemy (6:10-12)
 - ii. Put on the Armor God supplies (6:13-17)
 - iii. Pray for boldness for Christian leaders (6:18-20)
 - iv. Communicate with and encourage one another (6:21-22)
 - v. Live under God’s benediction of peace, love, faith and grace (6:24-24)