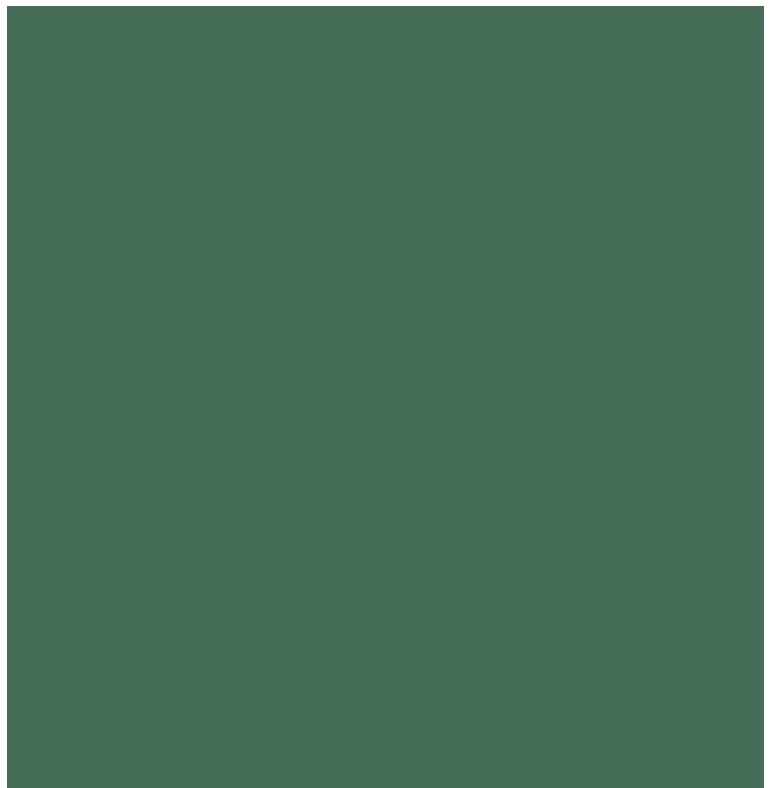


EPHESIANS

BIBLE STUDY



EPHESIANS STUDY QUESTIONS

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**1:1-2**

Who is Paul and what can be known about him through this greeting?

What else can we know about Paul from 3:1 and 6:20?

1:3-14

What are the blessings that we have “in him” according to Paul?

What role did God play in our salvation according to what Paul said in vv. 4-6, and what would this suggest regarding the doctrine of salvation?

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 3

¹ For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

Chapter 6

²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Chapter 1

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

What is the purpose for which God “chose” and “predestined” us, according to Apostle Paul (vv. 4-5)? How can Christians live out this purpose?

When are we “sealed” with the promised Holy Spirit? What does this say about how our choice is involved in the matter of our salvation (v. 13)?

What role does the Holy Spirit play, and how might his work encourage Christians today?

1:15-21

What did Apostle Paul pray for the Ephesians to know?

Give concrete examples of how you were able to experience hope, richness and power in your Christian life.

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

1:21-23

What is the significance of the fact that God put *all things* under Jesus' feet and gave him as head over *all things* to the church? How should this spiritual reality impact the lives of Christians today?



EPHESIANS 2

[STUDY QUESTIONS]

2:1-3

What was the state of the Ephesians (and mankind) before God intervened?

What were the forces that unredeemed man (including the Ephesians) followed?

When you look at the world today, why is this description of man not surprising?

2:4-7

What happens at the moment of our salvation, and why does Paul call this grace and mercy?

Chapter 2

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

How do each of these spiritual realities, which have happened to all Christians, give guidance for how we are to live out our lives?

Why did God intervene in our lives when we were dead in our transgressions and sins?

2:8-10

What are the implications of the fact that we're saved by grace through faith?

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Salvation is a work of God and is given to us as a gift. What role do we play in our salvation?

According to v. 10, what is our identity and our purpose?

Vv. 8-9 states that we have been “saved through faith” and our salvation is not our own doing, but “the gift of God.” V. 10 states that we are “created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand.” How can we reconcile the seeming contradiction between these two thoughts? If our salvation is by grace, then why do we need to do good works?

2:11-13

According to v. 11-13, what are the conditions that describe being separated from Christ?

2:13-22

How has God reversed the conditions that afflict man in vv. 11-13?

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

What does “abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances” (v. 15) mean?

How could you summarize the theme of Christ’s work found in Ephesians 2:11-22?

How have you experienced in your life the breaking down of the dividing wall of hostility, being brought near, relational peace, or growing together with others into a community?

**3:1-6**

What is the mystery of the gospel that was made known to Paul?

3:7-13

We are all called to be ministers and to do the works of God in the church. Using Paul's short testimony in vv. 7-9 as a framework, how could you describe your testimony if you were writing a similar letter to people you knew?

What specific works was Paul engaged in (vv. 8-9), and what might be some modern day examples of this kind of work that any Christian can do in the church today?

What is the role of the church regarding the mystery of Christ (v. 10)?

Chapter 3

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

3:14-19

What does Paul pray for in vv. 14-19?

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Why might power through the Holy Spirit be needed to have Christ dwell in our hearts through faith?

In what ways can comprehending God's love "with all the saints" be a blessing?

How does the love of Christ surpass knowledge?

Describe to a non-Christian what a church “filled with all the fullness of God” (v. 19) might look like.

3:20-21

Describe a moment when God did immeasurably more than all we asked or thought (as a church).

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



EPHESIANS 4

[STUDY QUESTIONS]

4:1-3

What does Paul urge the Ephesians to do, and why? (Focus on the word “therefore”.)

Describe how each of the qualities listed in these verses leads to unity in the church.

4:4-6

What are the things that believers share that obligate them to maintain unity?

4:7-11

According to the text, what are the ways in which Christians are different from one another?

Chapter 4

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,
“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” ⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the

What is Christ's gift?

4:12-14

For what purposes does God give the different offices of the church?

In what ways are people today "tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, and craftiness in deceitful schemes"?

4:15-16

What happens when a church is equipped and "each part is working properly"?

Why are "speaking the truth in love" and "joined and held together" within the church necessary for growth?

prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

What attitudes might prevent a church from being equipped?

What attitudes might prevent each part of a church from working properly?

4:17-19

How does Paul describe the Gentiles?

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

What is the relationship between the heart and the mind?

Describe how being “alienated from the life of God” might lead to walking in the futility of one’s mind and a darkened understanding.

4:20-24

According to the text, when one “learns Christ” what is the message that he is taught?

What does the fact that one has to “put off your old self” and “put on the new self” imply about the sanctification process?

Why are we to put on the new self (v. 24)?

²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

4:25-32

List all commands Paul gives because we're "created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

²⁵Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Why would not speaking the truth be inappropriate for God's people?

How does anger give an opportunity to the devil?

Why are Christians to forgive one another?



EPHESIANS 5

[STUDY QUESTIONS]

5:1-2

"The standard is high, but so is the privilege. Christians have God's spirit with them (4:30) and belong in God's family (5:1). Such a lofty position requires that God's character be reflected in the way we treat other people. Copying God only means taking seriously who God says we are."

Who is our model for a life of love? What does Paul suggest is the act of love par excellence?

5:3

What are the sins that must not be named among you?

Why might "be named among you" be a higher standard than "be found among you"?

5:5

Why is someone who is covetous also an idolater?

Why do you think the sexually immoral, the impure and the covetous have no inheritance in the kingdom of God?

Chapter 5

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

5:6-7

What are the “empty words” that the world today uses to deceive me against my need to be holy?

5:7-14

How is a Christian to live his life (walk) and what specific applications does Paul give?

What is a Christian’s relationship with the darkness?

5:15-17

How does Paul describe the times and why is knowing this about the times crucial to living a wise life?

5:18-21

What does being filled with the Spirit look like according to these verses?

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

5:22-25, 28, 33

How are the husbands and wives called to relate to each other?

What is the basis for properly relating to each other?

In what ways has sin marred God's original design for the marriage relationship?

5:26-33

What was the purpose of Christ giving himself for the church?

Meditate on the words "present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." How would these words motivate a Christian to pursue holiness today?

How did Christ love the church? How does this represent the highest form of love?

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.



EPHESIANS 6

[STUDY QUESTIONS]

6:1-9

List the different groups of Christians in this passage and their responsibilities to others.

How does the phrase “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land” reveal the heart of God?

How does Apostle Paul’s advice to the “fathers” and the “masters” show me how I should treat those who are in weaker positions?

How does Apostle Paul’s advice to the “children” and the “slaves” show me how I should respond to those whom I am called to obey?

How does “rendering service with a good will as the Lord and not to man” give meaning to all that a Christian does?

Chapter 6

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

6:10-12

Who are Christians contending against, and what is the goal of putting on the whole armor of God?

Why is "scheme" an appropriate word to describe the work of the devil?

6:14-17

List the components of the armor of God, and for each component explain why the metaphors are apt.

6:18-20

What is Paul's attitude towards prayer?

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

²¹ So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. ²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

²³ Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.