

Ephesians Discussion/Study Questions

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Ephesians 1:1-2 Discussion Questions

1. In Ephesians 1, Paul said he was an Apostle “by the will of God.” Do you ever find yourself attempting to copy another person’s ministry? What is that experience like for you (thoughts/feelings/fruits/etc.)?

What do you think motivates us to imitate someone else’s gifts instead of rejoicing in our own?

2. Paul addresses his letter to “The saints who are at Ephesus.” We are as holy as we will ever be. (Romans 1:7, 1 Cor. 13:43, 2 Cor. 13:13) How does this truth show up in daily life? Is it ever hard for you to believe and accept?

Why does God still allow us to FEEL guilt or shame if we’ve been made holy? How should we walk through moments when we feel ashamed or prideful as a saint?

3. What is the significance of Paul saying “Grace” before “Peace”? How do you define Grace? What effect does Grace have on the everyday life of the believer?

4. What is the key to peace? Where does Grace and Peace come from? Do we always have access to it or must we ask for it each time we’re troubled?

When your world falls apart, where do you run? For you, is it more difficult to accept the grace and peace of God in deep suffering or in daily disappointments?

Digging Deeper:

Check out Acts 19 that talks about Paul’s first time at Ephesus. This will provide you a wider backdrop for the rest of the course.

Look into what Scripture says about our “Inheritance” as sons and daughters /co-heirs with Christ. Share your findings with someone! It’s good stuff!

Familiarize yourself with Eph. 1:1-14 before we jump into it next week!

Ephesians 1:3-4a Discussion Questions

1. This week, Bob stated, “To understand the mystery, we’ve got to understand the heart of the Father.” What is he talking about when he refers to “God’s heart”?
2. When you think of Jesus’ relationship to the Father, what comes to mind? Does that picture differ from your perception of your relationship to the Father? What differences might there be when compare with God’s perspective of your relationship to Him?
3. God demonstrates his family structure on the cross by displaying relationship for what the other members of the Trinity get out of it. His kind of love lays itself down for the benefit and glorification of the other. Have you ever experienced a human relationship with that kind of love? If so, what effect did it have on you? If not, why do you think this kind of love can seem so elusive to us?
4. When your mind drifts toward God, what is your gut reaction? How does that impact how you approach (or don’t approach) Him? Have you ever considered that God’s continuous disposition towards you in Christ is still self-sacrificial and unconditional love on a daily basis? The cross was not the beginning or end of his love for you more than it was simply a display of it.
5. Have you ever thought about your relationship with God in terms of what He gets out of it? What does that even mean?
6. How does the phrase “in Him” help us understand what Paul is communicating in verse 5?

Digging Deeper:

Check out John 16 and Eph. 2 and ponder the relationships in God’s family structure. Write down the names of your closest relationships and ask God how He sees them. Share what you hear with someone in your own family.

Read or memorize Eph. 1:4-5 in preparation for next week!

Ephesians 1:4-5a Discussion Questions

1. We hit a lot of buzzwords this week. Take a moment to gage where your group is at concerning these terms. Ask your group how they currently understand:

Called:

Elected:

Chosen:

Predestined:

Adoption as Sons:

2. Does the word “chosen” ever equal “selected for salvation”?

Look up Isaiah 42:1 (quoted by Matthew). In this passage God calls Jesus “chosen.” Jesus was not born with a sin nature and never committed an act of sin. Since He was not in need of salvation, for what was Jesus chosen?

Read John 6:70. Were the Disciples chosen? What were they chosen for? If they were chosen for salvation, how is it possible that one (Judas) was considered a devil?

Was Israel chosen (Isaiah 44:1, Duet 7:8, Romans 11:28)? Romans chapter 2 explains that not all Jews are saved. If they were not chosen for salvation, why were they chosen?

(More on this in Digging Deeper on the next page.)

3. Read Eph. 1:5 and Romans 8:29. We were predestined for sure! To what are you predestined? Check out Romans 8:23 and 1 Corinthians 15:42-57 to discover the truth!

4. How does this week’s teaching sit with you? Is there anything you haven’t considered before? List those things you disagree with and Scriptures that support your thoughts?

5. Does Eph. 1:4-5 effect your perceptions of the heart of God? What does it tell you about Him?

Digging Deeper:

Look into the marriage between God and the nation of Israel. God chose Israel (Isaiah 44:1) to be his wife (Exodus 19-20, 24:1-2, 9-11, Jeremiah 31:32) and bear a seed, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. (Also refer to Gen 3:15, Gal 3:16).

Look up the Scriptures that include the phrases “in Christ” and “in Him” in the New Testament. Write down any new revelations God provides you.

Ephesians 1:5a-6 Discussion Questions

1. In Romans 8:29 – 30, what comes to your mind when Paul says you’ve been predestined to be “conformed to the image of His son?”

If Christ became the “First Fruits among many brethren” at the resurrection by receiving his glorified body, does it follow that our “conformed to the image” of Jesus will also happen when we receive our glorified body? What prompts you to answer the way you did?

Talk or think through anything left in your mind to ponder in this area! What questions do YOU still have about it? (Remember, we can boldly approach the throne with our curiosities and thoughts.)

2. How do you understand the word “called”? Have you viewed it as being chosen and drawn to salvation or drawn to a vocational expression within the body of Christ or perhaps something else?

3. Have you ever thought that God has a kind intention towards you (Eph. 1:6)? How does that change the way you approach Him?

4. This week, Bob described God’s glory as “the avenue through which God’s character reveals itself.” How was God’s glory revealed to humans throughout scripture (Exodus 16:10, Deut. 5:24, John 1:14, Hebrews 1:3)? How have you seen it revealed in your own life?

According to the end of Eph. 1:6, where were we when we received all of this from God?

Digging Deeper:

1. Take a dive into how the glory of God shows up throughout the Old Testament. Meditate on the way Jesus is involved in those moments. (For helpful insight on this, there is a teaching by Bob on our website called *The Glory*. You can find it at the bottom of the Audio Teachings page.)

Ephesians 1:7 Discussion Questions

1. In your mind, what is the biggest factor that caused separation between you and God?

Under which category does your answer fall?

- a. Who I am at the core (a nature issue)
- b. Sins you have committed (a behavior issue)

If you think, “I’m just too much of a failure for God to love,” or “If I really showed God

who I am, He wouldn't want me," you may feel separation has more to do with nature. If it is something closer to, "I can't know God because I drink too much" or "Once I clean up my act, I'll get things straightened out with God," then it could be behavior related.

This is important because our perceptions about God and ourselves will determine the way we approach him.

Ephesians 2:3 explains that there was a problem with our nature from the start. What happened to that nature according to Romans 6:6?

2. Ephesians 1:7 tells us that forgiveness for our acts of sin comes through Christ's blood. Romans 7:1-6 describes how we were married or joined to the Law. Through what avenue did God ensure we were released from that obligation to the Law (v. 4)?

How does the offering of Christ's body and blood work together to provide us total forgiveness and "confidant access" to him (Eph. 3:11-12)?

3. Do you ever wonder if your sin will out-do God's grace? How does that affect your interactions with Him?

4. What do you think is the difference between "insight" and "wisdom" found in Ephesians 1:8-9? Can you imagine God saw it wise and insightful to make known to you the mystery of His will? Do you ever feel like God's will is something you have to search for? How does this verse relate to your seeking His will in decisions you face? Share what thoughts are turning over in your mind, even if you don't think it qualifies as "the correct answer."

Digging Deeper:

Take a bit of extra time and approach the Lord about your perspectives on His forgiveness. Ask Him to reveal to you what you truly believe about it. Are there still parts of your heart unconvinced He has totally forgiven you and destroyed forever your old nature? What might He want to say further?

Maybe ask a friend or family member their perspective on God's forgiveness. Enjoy the Lord this week, Friends!

Ephesians 1:8-10b Discussion Questions

1. What is your normal reaction (internal/external) when you realize you have sinned? (Not after a specific answer here. Just consider this with the Lord for a moment.)

Do you think confessing and repenting for an act of sin is equivalent to asking God for forgiveness? If not, what do you see as the difference? If so, and all sin was not forgiven at the cross, at what point will those sins be forgiven?

2. Paul likes to refer to “mysteries” quite a bit. Check out these references for some examples: 1 Cor. 1:18-25, 1 Cor. 2:6-8, Col. 1:24-29, Col. 2:1-3, Col. 4:3

Do they all refer to the same mystery? If not, how do these mysteries differ?

What relevant information concerning mystery does Paul share in Eph. 3:3? (We will study this more deeply at that point in the course.)

3. Have God’s intentions ever seemed unkind to you? What was that like? What do you currently think are God’s intentions toward you?

4. Eph. 1:10 talks about the “summing up of all things in Christ.” What current events have shaken you up lately? Consider personally (or as a group) how this could play a role in all things being summed up in Christ.

Does your personal situation apply to that as well?

Digging Deeper:

Read Revelation 5 and look at the descriptions of power there. What is it that God values in His display of power? What stands out to you about the Lion and the Lamb?

Ephesians 1:10c-13a Discussion Questions

1. Take a deeper look into our “inheritance” as recorded in the verses below and list your thoughts.

Acts 20:32

Eph. 5:5

Col. 1:12, 3:23-24

Heb. 9:15

1 Peter 1:3-4

If you are a joint heir with Christ, what do you own today?

2. Eph. 1:11 states that God “works all things together after the counsel of His will.” Do you think it is possible for your choices to usurp God’s will or disrupt His plan? Explain why.

In what ways do Ephesians 1:11 and Romans 8:28 convey a similar message?

3. Based on Eph. 1:13, what is truth?

In John 14:6, Jesus claimed that He was truth. Then in John 17:17 Jesus says that the Father’s word is truth. How do you think those two claims fit together and relate to Paul’s statement in Ephesians 1:13?

Digging Deeper:

Search a concordance for how the word “truth” is used in Scripture. What do you notice about how the concept of Truth is portrayed? Does it point to anyone in particular?

Ephesians 1:13b-14 Discussion Questions

1. Eph. 1:13 says we are sealed with the “Holy Spirit of promise.” The following passages are all Old Testament stories involving a seal. Look them up and write your observations and thoughts that come to mind while you read them. What various things does a king’s seal indicate?

Jeremiah 32:9-14

Esther 8:8

Daniel 6:17

1 Kings 21

2. How does 1 Cor. 6:20 tie into this idea? Who owns you? How secure are you?

3. What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit is your pledge from the Father?

4. What does Eph. 1:14 tell you about the motivations of God’s heart in sealing you with the Holy Spirit?

Digging Deeper:

Read a little more in the surrounding stories in the list of scriptures above. Get some context for how these stories flavor New Testament explanations.

Ephesians 1:15-18a Discussion Questions

1. Notice verse 17 says “a spirit” instead of “the Spirit.” What is Paul referring to here?

Read Isaiah 11:2. Do you think these are all separate spirits or various ministries of the same Spirit? How might this relate to Revelation 4:5?

2. By what process does knowledge turn into wisdom? Whose responsibility is it to make that happen?

3. Think about your journey with Christ. Generally, are you living a “Christ-centered” Gospel or a “Man-centered” Gospel? What affect does a “Man-centered” Gospel have on a life? How might a more “Christ-centered” Gospel impact your daily walk?

4. What is your general experience in the middle of the mundane? What does Paul’s reference to “enlightenment” and “hope” have to do with each other? Do you ever find yourself trying to conjure up hope?

What are your thoughts concerning 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and the hope before us?

Digging Deeper:

Trace the Glory of God throughout the story of the Bible!

Exodus 3:2-4 – Glory in the bush

Exodus 19 and 20 – Glory on Mt Sinai

Exodus 40 – Glory enters tabernacle

2 Chronicles 5 – Glory enters King Solomon’s temple

Ezekiel 11 – Glory Leaves Holy of Holy’s and Returns to Heaven

Luke 2 – Glory returns to earth

John 1:14 – Glory is named

Acts 1– Glory buried and resurrected; goes back to heaven in a cloud

Acts 2 – Glory comes back to earth and is distributed among believers

Colossians 1:27 – Glory residing in every believer

Ephesians 1:18b-23 Discussion Questions

1. In your daily experience, do you have “*hope*” or is your life with Christ somewhat

mundane and boring? What are a couple of things that are quick to discourage you and distract you from the “*hope*,” “*riches*,” and “*power*” Paul describes in Eph. 1:18?

Before moving on, read Hebrews 6:17-20 out loud. Is this resolute hope and “strong encouragement” elusive to you or others you know? What do you think makes it difficult to grasp?

2. Eph. 1:20b explains that Christ is seated in “*the heavenly places*.” Cross-reference that with Eph. 2:6. How would you explain this concept to a 6 year old?

3. Read and ponder Eph. 1:21-23b. Ask the Holy Spirit to identify any areas of life you may not have allowed to be in subjection to Jesus. What are those areas and how does He want to walk through that with you?

Reflect upon Eph. 1:23 and give the Lord thanksgiving for His fullness in the tough areas. He fills it all, y’all! Write down any significant revelations.

Digging Deeper:

Check out Psalm 18 for a display of how David perceived the power of God. It’s juicy stuff!

Take a little look into these verses to get a picture of the Lord’s right arm:

Psalm 18:35, 98:1, 108:6, 118:15, 138:7

Isaiah 41:10

Mark 12:64, 14:62

Luke 22:69

Acts 5:31

Colossians 3:1

Hebrews 8:1, 10:12

Ephesians 2:1-2 Discussion Questions

1. Has the Holy Spirit brought you to awareness that you were dead in sin? How did he make that revelation to you?

2. The enemy is the accuser of the brethren in Heaven (Revelation 12:10). How have you personally come to recognize the deceiver at work around you?

To what places does he have access today? Check out these verses to get a picture of that

and record your thoughts.

Job 1:6 –

Job 2:1 –

2 Corinthians 11:13 –

1 Peter 5:8 –

How would it effect your day to have an awareness of the accuser’s activity and access?

3. Does 2 Corinthians 11:3 give you any ideas for responding to the havoc he wreaks? Why is “the simplicity of devotion to Christ” such a threat to his schemes?

Digging Deeper:

Explore what it means to be spiritually dead (separated from God) by studying Romans 5:12-19 & Genesis 3:1-13. List any changes that took place in Adam and Eve as a result of their sin. How did their sin impact mankind?

Ephesians 2:3-6 Discussion Questions

Please feel free to use the questions below for group discussion or individual study and reflection after listening to the audio and reading the notes. We trust the Holy Spirit will guide you in how to use them effectively. Please let us know if there are other resources or ways we can support you. Thank you for joining us on this journey and for pursuing truth.

1. What is your current understanding of the flesh and lust?

In the flesh, who’s perspective do we see the world by?

2. Take a moment to think over the business in your life. Why do you do what you do?

What are your motivating factors?

Where do you feel inferior or insecure?

Where does performance for acceptance come into play in your life these days?

3. What happened to you to put you in “Jesus based acceptance”? Check out these verses to find out!

Romans 6:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:15

Colossians 2:12-13

Ephesians 2:6

Digging Deeper:

Get quiet and spend time asking Jesus about how you’ve been programed in your flesh. Press into those days of depression, anxiety, loneliness, or fear. What does He say about them? Where does He take your mind?

Ephesians 2:7-10 Discussion Questions

1. Paul often contrasts “faith” and “works” (Romans 3 & 4). List a few elements Paul uses to contrast the two.
2. Consider your own weekly experience. Ask God, “Where am I still working for your acceptance or salvation?” List what you hear from Him.
3. In Ephesians 2:9-10, Paul teaches we are not saved as a result of our good works, but that in Christ we’re created “for” good works which God has prepared. What do you see as the difference in the two? How you think good works impacts the way God loves or values you?
4. Paul calls you a “masterpiece” of God. How does it make you feel to hear that? Is it believable or difficult? What might be standing in the way of accepting His perspective of you as a masterpiece?

Digging Deeper:

Consider sitting and having a chat with a friend about “works-based” or “performance-based” relationships. Where do you both see it in your circles? What are markers of performance-based estimations of worth? When I put those same expectations onto God’s view of me, how does that impact my approach to him? Explore together!

Ephesians 2:11-22 Discussion Questions

1. Ephesians 2:12-16 describes in detail how we were far off, but are now brought near to God by the blood of Christ. WOW. What is your story of how that was accomplished in your life? Grab somebody near you and tell them the story. Or call someone and ask them about it. It's savory stuff.

2. Check out Paul's mention of the full Trinity in Ephesians 2:18. How does each part function in ministry to the believer? List some adjectives you'd assign to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit separately.

Father:

Son:

Holy Spirit:

3. If Christ is "The Cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20), what is being built/resting on Him? See 1 Peter 2:5 for more.

Do you think those descriptions of believers applies in 2020? How so?

Digging Deeper:

Dive into the incredible description of Jesus as the Cornerstone and record any thoughts or discoveries. Have fun and drink deeply.

Isaiah 28:16

Psalm 118:22

Matthew 21:42

Mark 12:10

Luke 20:17

Acts 4:11

Peter 2:6-7

Ephesians 3:1 Discussion Questions

1. What is the “reason” Paul refers to in verse one?
2. Paul writes that Jews and Gentiles have built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (2:22). How did this message cost him his freedom and later his life? (Gal. 2:7-9, Acts 21:17-22:30)
3. Caesar was on the throne over the Roman Empire at the time of Paul’s imprisonment. Why did he say he was a prisoner of Christ Jesus?

Put yourself in Paul’s shoes. Do you see difficult circumstances as opportunity for God’s glory? How could such a perspective impact your life?

4. Paul says he was a prisoner for the sake of the Gentiles. How did his imprisonment turn out to benefit the Gentiles?

Digging Deeper:

Paul was a prisoner at Philippi before he was in Caesar’s custody at the writing of Ephesians. How does this imprisonment in Acts 16:11-40 impact what he shared with his readers in Philippians? (Philippians 1:20-24, 2:13, 3:7-9, 4:4-9)

Ephesians 3:2-5 Discussion Questions

1. In Acts 19, Paul spends two years teaching the Ephesians about the “stewardship of God’s grace” given for their sake. Paul mentions a similar idea in Colossians 1:25 and 1 Corinthians 9:16-17. From what these verses tell, what was Paul’s stewardship?

What does the word “stewardship,” regarding life with Christ, mean to you? How do you think it fits together with Sabbath rest talked about in Hebrews 4:9-11?

2. Verse 3 refers to a “mystery” that has been revealed. What do you think this revelation is referring to? Look at verse 6 for help! How does this encourage you?

Paul mentions other mysteries in 1 Cor. 1:18-25, 1 Cor. 2:6-8, Col. 1:24-29, Col. 2:1-3, Col. 4:3. How are these related to one another and in Ephesians?

3. 1 Peter 1:10-12 explains that we have insight into things that the Old Testament writers did not. What was it the Old Testament saints didn't know?

Digging Deeper:

Look into the prophecies of the "Suffering Savior" that we the church, get to know intimately.

Genesis 3:15

Psalm 22

Isaiah 53

Ephesians 3:6a Discussion Questions

1. In the recording, Bob points out the magnitude of wrong teaching Paul himself had to unlearn (Philippians 3:4). Do you ever feel like you have a lot to unlearn? How has God revealed this truth to you? How has Paul's story encouraged you in this area?

2. What has God revealed in His word to the Jews concerning His plan for the Gentiles? The following passages provide insight.

Genesis 12:3, 22:17, 26:4, 28:14

Psalm 22:27

Isaiah 11:10, 42:1, 42:6, 49:6, 60:1-3

Jeremiah 3:17

Daniel 7:14

Hosea 2:23

Joel 2:28

3. In what way does Matt. 23:15 convey what Jews thought about Gentiles being saved? What was the Jewish perspective of Gentiles in the first century? (Matt. 15:22-28, John 4:9)

4. What in Paul's testimony from Acts 22 caused the Jews to get worked up enough to want to kill him?

5. Compare the Jewish idea of how Gentiles fit into God's plan versus what Paul reveals in Ephesians 2:11-3:13 of them as "*fellow heirs*" with the Jews (Eph. 3:6) and being built

together into one “*dwelling of God in the Spirit*” (Eph. 2:21-22).

Digging Deeper:

Take time to read all six chapters of Ephesians as context for approaching the middle of the book.

Ephesians 3:9-10 Discussion Questions

1. In Ephesians 3:9 there is an interesting phrase. Pause for a moment to ponder the phrase “bring to light the administration of the mystery” From what you've been learning about the “mystery” what is Paul describing by “administration”?

2. What is the significance of Paul mentioning that God created all things in Ephesians 3:9b? What is he referring to?

Share what you find amazing about creation from Colossians 1:15-16 and 1 Corinthians 8:6.

3. What is it that fascinates unseen spiritual forces so much? What is it that you've experienced that they cannot?

Digging Deeper:

Here are more references where Paul talks about “rulers and authorities” interacting with humanity. Jot down what thoughts come to mind as you read these.

Ephesians 1:21, 3:12, 6:12

Colossians 1:16

Revelation 5:11-12

Hebrews 1:14, 13:2

1 Peter 1:12

1 Timothy 5:21

Are there any other verses or stories that come to mind that are not on the list above?

Ephesians 3:11-14 Discussion Questions

1. The statement in Ephesians 3:11 is fully flavored by that little phrase “in Christ.” Look up a few (or all) of the following verses to get a taste for that seasoning! How does

Ephesians 3:11 become enhanced by the backdrop of what happens “in Christ” in other parts of Scripture?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ephesians 2:6

Galatians 5:6

Philippians 4:13

1 Peter 5:10

2. Based on 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 and Ephesians 3:13, how did Paul view his suffering? Does it seem far-fetched to live with that perspective in your own life? If so, why?

3. How does being “in Christ” effect or bring glory to our circumstances? (Refer back to the verses in Question 2.)

4. How could Paul say his tribulations were for their glory?

Digging Deeper:

Take a look at Hebrews 5, 6, 8, & 9 to discover the sufficiency of Jesus being our High Priest. This is the Christ we are IN!

Ephesians 3:15a Discussion Questions

This week, Bob leads us through a biblical overview of angels.

1. What two orders of intelligent beings did God create?
2. Of the three types of righteous heavenly beings, Cherubim, Seraphim, and Angels, what kind of beings are mentioned in Revelation 4:8? Check out Isaiah 6:1-3 to find out!
3. Before he fell, what kind of angelic being was Satan/Lucifer?

Are cherubs (or anyone except God) omnipresent? Since Satan/Lucifer was a cherub (Ezekiel 28:14), how does that encourage you about his limitations?

Digging Deeper:

Share with your group or ponder by yourself: What happens in your soul (mind/emotions) when you consider the reality of angels or an unseen spiritual realm?

Ephesians 3:15-18 Discussion Questions

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1. Are the offspring of God only His redeemed sons and daughters? Look at the first phrase in Acts 17:29 when Paul is talking to the philosophers in Athens for help. Why do you think this is an important distinction?

2. What is Paul talking about when he uses the word “dwell” in verse 17? Is Paul implying something deeper than Jesus simply being in a believer’s heart?

Consider for a moment...how comfortable is the presence of Christ in you? Is He settled in and feeling at home? What would it be like to tend to our hearts as the dwelling place for Christ?

(Please remember, this is NOT a question to evoke guilt or condemnation. Rather, just to consider an area of life that is easy for us to overlook.)

3. What is the role of faith in each of the questions above?

Digging Deeper:

Look into what the word “tabernacle” means and how the Lord “dwelt” with Israel.

Read Exodus 25:8-9 and chapter 40. How does this bring flavor to the idea of Christ “*dwelling in our hearts through faith*”? In what ways do the tabernacle and the Ark symbolize a believer and God’s presence?

Ephesians 3:19-4:2a Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think knowledge can’t fully explain the love of God?

How do we place ourselves into a position to receive revelation from the Holy Spirit about God's love?

2. "The Fullness of God is that these believers would allow the Spirit to reveal any weaknesses in their life, that God might walk in those areas of their life, remove their sin, dwell, and feel very much at home inside them." –Bob Warren

In light of this description, what area of weakness or pain is the God currently shining a light on in your life?

What would it look like to surrender control of that area to let the fullness of God dwell in that place?

How is walking in the fullness of God different from being saved by God?

3. In Ephesians 4:1 Paul's tone begins to change. How would you describe this change?

Why do you think he waits until after he's thoroughly addressed the love of God to address behavior and faithfulness of the Ephesians?

4. According to Philippians 2:3, Proverbs 22:4 and 1 Peter 5:5, how is humility displayed in a person?

How would impact your community if everyone treated each other that way?

Digging Deeper:

Pick a friend's brain on this one over a meal! How is humility cultivated? How is Pride cultivated? How do these two characteristics affect relationship?

Ephesians 4:2b-3 Discussion Questions

1. What is your current understanding of meekness?

How might we tell if our anger is based only on our own perspective or the perspective/heart of God?

2. What is the difference between “putting up with one another” and “bearing with one another”?

How does bearing with one another preserve unity in the Body of Christ?

3. Who do you have in your life that shares truth with you in love?

What keeps us from allowing this in more of our relationships?

4. Have you ever thought of yourself as a preserver of the unity in the Body?

What is the glue that holds us together?

Digging Deeper:

Take a moment to reflect on how God relates to you in both love and truth. How does He accept you? How does He shepherd you into behavior that aligns with His Spirit in you?

Ephesians 4:4-6 Discussion Questions

1. Is unity based on opinion or spiritual bond? What is the difference between the two?

2. Isn't it interesting that Paul mentions God the Holy Spirit in verse 4, God the Son in verse 5, and God the Father in verse 6? What is the significance of mentioning all three persons of the trinity in this passage?

3. Do you think the baptism mentioned here regards water baptism or spiritual baptism? Why? 1Corinthians 12:13, Romans 6:3-4 may help you out.

4. If the baptism Paul mentions in verse five is a believer's baptism into Christ by the Holy Spirit, how could any other type of baptism bring about regeneration?

List the different types of baptism described in the Scriptures below:

1. Acts 19:3, Mark 1:4—
2. Acts 1:5, Luke 3:16—
3. Mark 10:38-39, Luke 12:50—

4. Acts 2:38-41, Acts 8:38—
5. 1Corinthians 12:13—
6. Romans 6:3—
7. 1Corinthians 10:2—

Digging Deeper:

What would it look like to walk in unity with believers around you with whom you disagree right now?

Ephesians 4:7-10 Discussion Questions

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1. How are gifts and grace connected? Romans 12:6, 1 Peter 4:10

What happens to someone who is working hard to exercise their gifting in their own strength as opposed to the “grace of God” mentioned in Eph. 4:7?

2. Before the ascension of Jesus, where did souls go after physical death? (Luke 16:22)
How did that change after the resurrection of Christ? (2 Cor. 5:8, Phil. 1:23)
3. What are the two sides of Sheol? (Luke 16:19-31 & 23:43, 2 Peter 2:4-5, Jude 6)
4. Do you experience Jesus filling “all things” in your daily experience? What does that phrase bring to mind? (1 Cor. 15:26-28)

Digging Deeper:

Let’s dig into the concept of Abraham’s Bosom or Hades with these descriptions of Sheol (Hebrew) or Hades (Greek):

Deut. 32:22

1 Kings 2:6

Job 24:19 & 26:6

Psalm 9:17 & 16:10

Matthew 11:23
Luke 16:23
Acts 2:27, 31
Revelation 20:13

How does this input assist your understanding of the passage this week?

Ephesians 4:8-11a Discussion Questions

1. Do you ever face temptation to imitate the gifting of another believer? When do these temptations come on strongest?

What would the church look like if we were content with our own gifts?

2. 2 Corinthians 15:26-28 and Hebrews 9:24 give us a little more insight into Ephesians 4:10. What does it mean to you that Christ now fills all things?

3. Christ displays victory over the “last enemy” in these passages. What is the idea of living from a place of victory in Christ like for you?

Does it seem more foreign or familiar?

Digging Deeper:

There is a teaching by Bob Warren called “The Glory” found on the “Audio Teachings” page at lifeonthehill.org. He reveals how God’s glory shows up throughout scripture! Listening will add much context and flavor to the ascension of Christ in Glory. Yum!

Ephesians 4:11b Discussion Questions

1. Apostles:

If our experience in the Church today is built on the foundation of the “apostles and prophets” (Eph. 2:19), do believe those offices still exist in the Church today? Why or why not?

Does the term apply to anyone outside the 12 original disciples? (2 Cor. 8:23, Eph. 1:1)

(See Digging deeper for more)

2. What did prophets do in the time of the early church? (Acts 11:27, Acts 15:32, 1 Cor. 14:3)

3. What comes to your mind when you think of an evangelist? Does that line up with the Scriptural description of the office? (Eph. 4:1-5, 2 Tim. 4:1-5, Acts 21:8, 6:5, 8:5-13)

Digging Deeper:

To shed some light on the meaning of these passages, take a look into the Greek word and root word for the term “Apostle.” Does your understanding of these verses change at all?

Ephesians 4:11c-14 Discussion Questions

1. What is a Pastor-Teacher equipped to do? (1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 1:5)

2. How does sitting under a Pastor-Teacher equip the saints to function in the other gifts?

3. How is “unity in the faith” affected when we neglect the gift we have been given?

4. Do you feel like you have been equipped for the work of service? How have these gifted ministries been used to mature you?

Digging Deeper:

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 is an interesting passage about the future kings of Israel. What does this tell you about the roll of humility in leadership? How might that tie into a pastor or elder role in a church congregation?

Ephesians 4:15-16 Discussion Questions

1. What has been your understanding of “speaking the truth in love”?

2. What is the value of a rebuke? (Proverbs 17:10, 2 Timothy 3:16)

3. Does the thought of “speaking truth in love” with someone cause you anxiety? Where do you think that is rooted?

Do you find willingness in your own heart to receive truth in love from fellow brothers and sisters?

4. What avenue does spiritual growth come from? (Colossians 2:18-19)

What does that look like for you on a normal day?

Digging Deeper:

Consider this account between King David and Nathan in 2 Samuel 12. What did it take to bring David’s heart to repentance? What is your impression of Nathan?

Ephesians 4:17-18 Discussion Questions

1. Look over Ecclesiastes chapters 1 and 2. Write down and discuss the thoughts that come to mind.

2. What flavor does Solomon’s expression of futility/vanity add to Ephesians 4:17?

3. Why are the “Gentiles” Paul references “darkened in their understanding”? (See Romans 1:18-32)

4. How might Hebrews 3:13 relate to “the hardness of [the Gentiles’] heart”?

Digging Deeper:

Look into the background of Ephesus when Paul is writing his letter. Who are the gods they worship? How would that affect their worldview and what they needed to hear from Paul?

Ephesians 4:19-22 Discussion Questions

1. What do you think it means to be taught “in Christ” (John 14:6, Ephesians 1:13, 1 Corinthians 12:13)?
2. Does “lay aside” (NASB 95) or to “put off” (KJV, ESV, NIV) the old self contradict Romans 6:6 and Colossians 3:9? If not, why?
3. If our old self has already been laid aside as Romans 6:6 and Colossians 3:9 imply, why does it seem like it is still active? (See Romans 7:23 for assistance.)
4. When you look back at your “*former manner of life*,” what changes do you see that confirm your old self has been laid aside?

Digging Deeper:

Review the Greek verb tenses (and definitions) in Ephesians 4:22 to defeat any thoughts of contradiction. Blue Letter Bible is a great online resource for Greek such study: https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb95/eph/4/22/t_concf_1101022

Ephesians 4:23-25 Discussion Questions

1. What does Paul mean by being “*renewed in the spirit of your mind*”? (See Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:10, & Titus 3:5 for assistance)?
2. What prevents us from walking in spiritual adultery with the “old self” when we are joined to Christ at salvation? (Romans 7:4)
3. If “*put on*” is an aorist infinitive in the Greek (as “*lay aside*” in 4:22), being best rendered in past tense, how would you word verse 24 to understand it better?
4. How significant is it for you to know that your new self has been “*created in the righteousness and holiness of truth*”? Explain.

Digging Deeper:

How is falsehood detrimental to unity in the body of Christ and contrary to who we are as “members of one another”?

Is truth always the best choice? Why?

Ephesians 4:25b-29 Discussion Questions

1. What effect do you think dishonesty has within the Body of Christ?
2. What is significant about the end of a day in dealing with anger? (Luke 6:45, Psalm 23:7)
3. What are some common ways we give the devil opportunity in our lives?
4. How have words been the carriers of God’s Grace in your life? What affect can unwholesome talk have upon our relationships? (Luke 4:22, Isaiah 50:4)

Digging Deeper:

How do the thoughts shared by Paul in these Scriptures (25-29) fit into context with his recommendations at the beginning of chapter four, specifically verse two?

Ephesians 4:30 Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think it is significant to call the Holy Spirit “He” instead of “it”?
2. What does it mean to grieve the Spirit? (see also 1Thess. 5:19)
3. What might it look like to become sensitive to His leading in your life? (Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:16-25)
4. What do you think it means to be sealed with the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 12:13,

John 10:28-29) What does it mean to be sealed for the day of redemption? (Romans 8:23, Ephesians 1:5, 1:13-14)

Digging Deeper:

What convinces you the Holy Spirit is a person? To understand how the Holy Spirit operates more accurately, look up the following passages and write down the actions you find Him up to:

Acts 10:19, 11:12, Revelation 3:13—

Luke 1:15, Acts 2:4, Ephesians 5:18—

John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:13—

2 Corinthians 3:6—

John 16:13—

Acts 13:4—

Acts 15:28—

Acts 16:6—

Ephesians 4:31-5:1a Discussion Questions

1. Bitterness, anger, slander, etc... From where do these attitudes and behaviors stem? Are we able to detect it in ourselves? If so, how?
2. How do you deal with these traits in your daily behavior? Is it ever accomplished in our own strength? If not, how is it accomplished?
3. What would it look like in your life to forgive others in the same way God has forgiven us?
4. Read Ephesians 5:1 and John 14:10. How did Jesus do what Paul describes in Ephesians 5:1?

5. Based on who lives in the believer (Galatians 2:20 and Colossians 1:27), how should we follow Paul's recommendation in Ephesians 5:1?

Digging Deeper:

Let's consider a question Bob posed in his teaching this week: "Think of the person you dislike the most. Can you forgive that person before they forgive you?" Is it possible for you to be the first one to extend grace and forgiveness? List any Scripture passages that come to mind as you think about that?

Ephesians 5:1b-3a Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between mimicking someone's behavior and living by their life?
2. Is being "transformed" according to Romans 12:1-2 something you do to yourself or something that is done to you? Why is that significant for our daily life as a Believer in Jesus?
3. How do immorality, impurity, or greed contrast with the love of God mentioned in Ephesians 5:2?

Digging Deeper:

Do you have areas of life where you have tried to copy the behavior of God? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you list those. Beside each one, write down what it would look like for you to live from the life of Christ instead?

Ephesians 5:3-8 Discussion Questions

1. Based on what we've been studying in Ephesians about living by the life of Christ, what would it look like to eliminate obscene talk or joking from your speech or expression? Why would that matter in the body of Christ?
2. How does thanksgiving directly contrast the use of coarse language?

3. In Ephesians 5:5, who/what is the “idolater” worshipping? Why do you think that is incompatible with the New Creation?

4. What do you think Paul means by “empty words” in verse six?

5. What does it mean to be “partakers” with the sons of disobedience (verse 7)?

Digging Deeper:

From what you have learned in this series thus far and what you already know of your identity in Christ, expound on verse five. Specifically, Paul says, “*no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.*” Does that mean if someone covets his neighbor’s truck or has an immoral thought he is banned from entering the kingdom of God? Explain why.

Ephesians 5:9-13 Discussion Questions

1. Does living as a child of light require you to figure it all out first? What is the difference in living from who we are in Christ (Ephesians 5:8-10) instead of aligning our behavior with a set of rules?

2. How do goodness, righteousness, and truth differ from one another?

3. How does light affect darkness? Does that provide any clues for how we can walk as believers/children of light?

4. Paul tells the Ephesians in verse seven they “are light in the Lord.” What does he mean then when in verse 13 he talks of all things becoming “exposed by the light”?

Digging Deeper:

In Psalm 43:3, Light and Truth leads the writer into the presence of God. What strikes you as interesting about this explanation? Check out Psalm 119:5, John 17:17, John 1:1-5, Romans 13:12 for more flavor!

Ephesians 5:14-17 Discussion Questions

1. What do you think the term “sleeper” is referring to? 1Thessalonians 5:4
2. Based on Proverbs 9:10, 1Corinthians 1:30, and 1Corinthians 2:16, what can we gather about wisdom?

What does wisdom bring to your experience with Christ? How does it help you make the most of time? Ephesians 5:16

3. After you gain wisdom by meeting Christ, what other sources of gaining wisdom are there? 2Timothy 3:15, Proverbs 13:20

Digging Deeper:

Consider this principle of wisdom: Often times, things have a bigger price in time over monetary value. Think of a few of your most expensive possessions. Spend a few minutes thinking about how many hours of your life it has taken for you to have/keep those things. Include time spent earning the money, maintenance, etc.

Ephesians 5:18 Discussion Questions

1. What do you think not being drunk (v18) has to do with knowing “the will of God” and being “filled with the Spirit”? (v17 and v18)
2. Is there a difference of having the Spirit of God IN you and being filled with the Spirit? What does being “filled” mean? What does a person look like who is filled with the Holy Spirit? (Steven)
3. Compare and contrast Ephesians 5:18-19 and Colossians 3:16. How does one ALLOW the word of God to richly dwell within them? How does that correlated with being filled with the Spirit?

Digging Deeper:

Dissipation with alcohol / addiction:
Proverbs 20:1

Proverbs 23:21, 33-35

Filled with the Spirit:

Luke 1

Acts 2

Acts 6

Ephesians 5:19-21 Discussion Questions

1. What is Paul referring to as “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”? Use the following references:

Revelation 5:9, 14:3, 15:3

Psalm 22:3

Acts 16:22

2. Do you think it’s possible to always thanks? What do you think about this concept in Acts 16:22 and Romans 8:28?

What does thanksgiving produce in a soul? Psalm 100:4

3. In this weeks teaching, Bob stated, “Anyone who is filled with the spirit of God understands submission.” What does Christ living in you (Gal 2:20) have to do with submission (John 12:49)?

Digging Deeper:

Take a moment to read over Ephesians 5:22-33 in preparation for next week.

Ephesians 5:22-33 Discussion Questions

1. Ephesians 5:21 & 22- Submission is a loaded word for some of us. What comes to mind when you say that word?

What experiences have formed your opinion?

2. What benefit is there to submission?

How is submission beneficial to authority?

3. What happens to your body when it is neglected? How does that relate to the relationship of a husband to a wife?

Digging Deeper:

Pick out one verse from the Scripture passages this week (Ephesians 5:22-33) to meditate upon for a bit longer. What is it that made you choose that verse?

Ephesians 6:1 Discussion Questions

1. Where do children first learn about the nature of submission and obedience? (See Ephesians 5:21)
2. What does the phrase “in the Lord” add to Ephesians 6:1?
3. How should a child (or anyone) respond when obedience is required to acts outside of God’s character and general will found in Scripture?
4. Read and compare Colossians 3:20 with Ephesians 6:1.

Digging Deeper:

Read Psalm 127:3-5 in relation to Ephesians 5:21-6:1. How does that impact the way we should see children and parent them? Conversely, how does the husband/wife relationship model found in Ephesians 5:21-6:1 influence what the psalmist writes in Psalm 127:3-5?

Ephesians 6:2-3 Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to “honor” a father and mother? Where do children learn to honor a parent?

2. This week, Bob made this statement, “Loving a child for what you receive will not cause a child to honor you.” What do you think he meant by that?

3. How does a child remain in the heart attitude of “honor” for their parents when they encounter conflict in the relationship?

4. In what ways should the “Principle of the Cross” apply within the child to parent relationship?

Digging Deeper:

Check out the story of Jesus submitting as a son of Joseph and Mary on the earth in Luke 2:41-52. What do you notice about their relationship?

Ephesians 6:4 Discussion Questions

Please feel free to use the questions below for group discussion or individual study and reflection after listening to the audio and reading the notes. We trust the Holy Spirit will guide you in how to use them effectively. Please let us know if there are other resources or ways we can support you. Thank you for joining us on this journey and for pursuing truth.

1. What is the relationship between encouragement and reproof? How can they coexist?

2. If you ever been disciplined in a loving manner, what was that experience like?

What made you able to receive instruction from a parent or a boss in the past?

3. What flavor does Hebrews 12:5-11 add to Ephesians 6:4 for you?

4. How do you think partiality affects the instruction of a child? (Gal 3:28)

How does partiality provoke a child to anger?

Digging Deeper:

Bob mentioned that loving discipline takes time, and that many in our busy culture do not have time for it. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

Ephesians 6:5-9 Discussion Questions

1. When Paul uses the word slavery here, what kind of service do you think he is referring to?

2. What does 1 Timothy 6:1-2 teach about respecting earthly authority?

Why do you think it carries such significance? (Romans 13:1)

3. What would the look like in your specific work place if everyone there operated by the Principle of the Cross?

Digging Deeper:

Take a look at the story of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Nehemiah. They all found themselves submitting to heathen authority and submitting to God. What do you notice about how they responded?

Ephesians 6:10a Discussion Questions

1. The armor of God is designed for a specific enemy. How do you see the armor defending us against the enemy described in these Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 11:14, Revelation 12:7 & 10, Isaiah 14:12-17?

2. When was the last time the enemy tried to convince you take the easy way out? What were the circumstances? Exodus 13:17

3. Psalm 124 describes God's strong hand of deliverance for Israel. How is it possible for one person to find strength in another?

Digging Deeper:

Look at the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. How does David act in the name of God? What does His name represent to David? (1 Sam 17:45)

Ephesians 6:10b-11 Discussion Questions

1. Do you view God as more passive or active in your battles? Why do you lean in that direction?

2. Write down your thoughts on 1 Peter 4:12.

Are you ever surprised by adversity in your life? What are the benefits of learning to expect battles?

3. What is Satan's aim in "scheming"? (1 Peter 5:8, Gen 3:1-4, Revelation 12:9)

4. How important is it to understand the enemy's operations/schemes against us?

Digging Deeper:

Read Psalm 18:1-19. Can you ever properly respond to negative circumstances without knowing the heart of God? How did an understanding of God's delight change the way David saw his circumstances? How does God express His delight in you?

Ephesians 6:12-13 Discussion Questions

1. What words or thoughts has the Power of Sin placed into your mind this week?

Which ones are you the most likely to believe?

2. Take a look at the temptation of Jesus in Luke 4:1-14. What ways do you see Him utilize the armor of God in His interaction with the devil?

3. How does the Armor of God help you "resist the devil"?

4. In what ways do you now consider yourself equipped to take authority in Jesus name when you're tempted?

Digging Deeper:

Read Daniel 10. Write down your observations from this passage about the spiritual realm.

Ephesians 6:14a Discussion Questions

1. Consider the phrase from our text, "*having girded.*" The same Greek phrase ("*Be dressed in readiness,*" NASB) is used at the beginning of Luke 12:35 (see 12:35-40 for context). How does it change your perception of the concept?

2. How does Truth make you ready for spiritual battles?

3. Check out 1 Samuel 17:38-40. You'll see a contrast between physical armor and spiritual armor. Do you think physical armor/weaponry has any effect on the spiritual world?

Why is the armor in Ephesians 6 so much more powerful?

How is it specialized to meet spiritual conflict? (Proverbs 30:5)

4. What is the believer's responsibility in regards to the Armor of God?

Digging Deeper:

Read more of the story of David and the physical/spiritual armor in 1 Samuel 17:31-54. List any observations you see.

Ephesians 6:14b-16 Discussion Questions

1. Do you think "*putting on the breastplate of righteousness*" is connected to the status of the believer's new self (soul and spirit)? If so, how?

If it is not necessary for making the believer more righteous, what is the function of putting on righteousness?

2. Does the gospel represent the peace of God to you?

What do you associate with the word “gospel”?

How does peace prepare the believer for spiritual conflict? Check out Phil 4:6-7 for some flavor here.

3. Paul describes their faith as being “*greatly enlarged*” in 2 Thessalonians 1:3. How does our faith come/grow according to Romans 10:17?

Digging Deeper:

In verses 14-17, each piece of the armor is explained for the believer to put on him/herself (denoted by the middle voice in Greek). What’s the difference between having access to the armor as a believer and actively putting in on/taking it up?

Ephesians 6:17 Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between the two Greek words “logos” and “rhema” (both translated as “word” in English)? “Rhema” is the Greek word used in Ephesians 6:17.

What is the significance that “rhema” is used instead of “logos”?

2. What is the only thing that repels/exposes darkness? Check out Ephesians 5:7-13 and John 3:19-20.

3. “Rhema” has been described as Scripture applied to everyday living. What does “rhema” look like in your life?

Do you think “rhema” is something the believer can and should pursue?

Digging Deeper:

Write down observations about the word of God in the following verses:

Hebrews 2:11-

2 Tim 3:16-

Revelation 19:11-15-

Ephesians 6:18a Discussion Questions

1. What is your typical response when God answers your prayers as “no” or “not yet”?

Has your response always been the same? Why or why not?

2. What role do you think prayer plays in our dependence upon God?

3. How do you think prayer is tied to the Armor of God? What verses in Ephesians 6 (or other passages) support your thoughts here?

Digging Deeper:

Read Nehemiah’s prayer in Nehemiah 1. What was his response to pain and sadness?

Ephesians 6:18b-24 Discussion Questions

Please feel free to use the questions below for group discussion or individual study and reflection after listening to the audio and reading the notes. We trust the Holy Spirit will guide you in how to use them effectively. Please let us know if there are other resources or ways we can support you. Thank you for joining us on this journey and for pursuing truth.

1. If a saint already has the armor of God, why would they need the support of prayer from fellow believers?

2. What may help a believer remain alert in prayer? (Colossians 4:2)

3. What has been your most impactful revelation from God while going through this course?

Digging Deeper:

Take time to read over Paul's prayers for the churches. Write down the significant things you notice as you read them?

Philippians 1:9-11-

Ephesians 3:14-21-

Colossians 1:5-11-

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