

Study Outline for Ephesians

- I What God Has Done: United Us in Grace (Chs. 1-3)
 - A. Introduction (1:1-2)
 - B. God's eternal purpose of glorifying himself (1:3-14)
 - C. Prayer for understanding of Unity (1:15-23)
 - D. Unity with God by grace through faith (2:1-10)
 - E. Unity between Jew and Gentile
 1. The basis for unity (2:11-22)
 2. The display of God's wisdom through unity (3:1-13)
 3. Prayer for God to accomplish this unity (3:14-21)
- II What We Must Do: Live Out Our Unity (Chs. 4-6)
 - A. Loving unity built through diverse gifting (4:1-16)
 - B. Loving unity maintained through renewed thinking (4:17-5:2)
 - C. Warning against unity with darkness (5:3-14)
 - D. Loving unity by making the most of opportunity
 1. Live and encourage wisely (5:15-20)
 2. Submit to one another (5:22-6:9)
 - a. Wives and husbands
 - b. Children and parents
 - c. Slaves and masters
 - E. Loving unity strengthened through dependent spiritual warfare (6:10-20)
 - F. Final Greetings (6:21-24)

Questions? E-mail TEACHER

Core Seminars—New Testament **Class 17: Ephesians:** **God's Grace-Based New Society**



Introduction

- The message of Ephesians: “You have received supernatural grace for the glory of God; therefore, live in supernatural unity to the glory of God.”
- Purpose and background

Chapter 1: God Elects

Praise be to God who predestined us to be redeemed through Christ, to the praise of his glorious grace. I thank God and pray for you, that you may know Christ better as well as his power for you.

- Salvation by God's choice alone
- Paul's prayer for the Ephesians

2:1-10: Election Based Purely on Grace

As for us, we were all dead in our sins, but God graciously made us alive to show his grace and end our boasting.

- Dead
- But God . . .

2:11-3:13: The Primary Application of the Gospel is Unity

As a result, God has destroyed the barrier between Jew and Gentile, building them into a single building in which God lives by his Spirit. This is the mystery of which I am a herald and for which I am now suffering.

- “Made the two one”
- Unity in the church as the central application of the gospel

3:14-21: Prayer for the Supernatural

So I pray for the supernatural power of God to work this kind of unity in you.

- Pray for faith
- Pray for knowledge of Christ’s love

Why Has God Done All This?

1. For the praise of his grace (1:5-6, 11, 2:7)
2. For the praise of his wisdom (3:10)
3. For the glory of God (3:20-21)

4:1-5:2: Build One Another Up

Keep the unity of the Spirit required by your new lives in Christ; to accomplish this, God has given us gifts to build unity. So you must no longer live as godless Gentiles. Instead, speak the truth, building each other up and forgiving just as Christ forgave you.

- Gifts
- Wisdom
- Speech
- Money

5:3-14: Do Not Partner with Darkness

Don’t misunderstand me, however, I am not telling you to have unity with those who lie and say that immorality is okay.

- Warning about the *wrong* kind of unity

5:15-6:9: Make the Most of Every Opportunity

Instead, make the most of every opportunity, submitting to each other in the following ways: Wives, submit to your husbands; husbands love your wives as Christ did the church. Children, obey your parents; fathers, bring your children up in the training of the Lord. Slaves, obey your earthly masters; masters, treat your slaves with respect and fear since you serve the same master.

- Be filled with the Spirit, sing to one another
- Submit to one another
 - Wives submit to your husbands (and husbands love your wives) to image Christ and the church
 - Children submit to your parents (and fathers instruct your children in the Lord)
 - Slaves submit to your masters (and masters treat your slaves with Christ as your master)

6:10-23: Stand to the End

Finally, put on the full armor of God so that you can continue to stand, praying even for me, that I might continue to stand.

- Stand
- Pray