

Kingdom of God Ephesians Bible Study Manual

To understand God's intended meaning in Paul's letter to the Ephesians we need to discover the context and situation at the time it was written.

Context or Situation

1: **What do we know about the situation in Ephesus?** Read **Acts 18:18–21**

2: **Upon Paul's return to Ephesus what was the situation there?** Read **Acts 19:5–10**

3: **What else happened in Ephesus when they heard and saw things concerning the Kingdom of God?** Read **Acts 19:18–20**

4: **What was the spiritual situation in Ephesus?** Read **Acts 19:26–28**

5: **What was Paul concerned would happen after he was gone?** Read **Acts 20:28–30**

Read **Revelation 2:1–7**

Listen to the *Jesus Loves the World* podcast - The One Who Holds the 7 Stars in His Right Hand >

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/125222/4877048-the-one-who-holds-7-stars-in-his-right-hand-7-letters-series?t=0>

6: **Who is talking?** Read **Revelation 1:18–20**

7: **What did the risen Jesus declare had happened to the saints in Ephesus?**

In fact the church had lost its effectiveness as a witness of His love.

Themes

To understand the amazing love of God and how He communicates to the first listeners according to their belief and culture, we need to identify the key themes of the letter.

Remembering the spiritual environment in which the first listeners lived (Read again **Acts 19:26–28**).

8: **What are two main themes in the letter of Ephesians?** Read **Ephesians 1:19-21, 2:1-2, 3:20-21** and **6:10**

Theme 1: Power

Listen to the Jesus Loves the World podcast - Power, Position, Purpose>

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/125222/1701925-power-position-purpose>

9: **Who has the power over all things and who does He give it to?**

Read **Ephesians 1:19-21**

10: **Who works the power of evil in this world?** Read **Ephesians 2:1-2** and **Ephesians 6:12**

11: **To which powers does the church display God's wisdom and plan?**

Read **Ephesians 3:9-11**

The principalities and powers in the heavenly places. (The spiritual realm).

Listen to the Jesus Loves the World podcast - The Manifold Wisdom of God>

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/125222/10764206-the-manifold-wisdom-of-god>

12: **Who does Jesus strengthen and give power to? Ephesians 6:10**

Brethren (Disciples of Jesus).

Theme 2: Relationships in the Kingdom of God - Established in God's love

Listen to Jesus Loves the World podcast - The Journey Through Ephesians - Relationships>

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/125222/13625388>

13: **In whose love are relationships of love possible? Ephesians 6:23**

14: **What relationship is in this scripture?** Read **Ephesians 1:3-4**

15: **What relationship is in this scripture?** Read **Ephesians 2:4**

16: **What relationship is in this scripture?** Read **Ephesians 3:19**

17: **What relationship is in this scripture?** Read **Ephesians 5:2**

18: **What relationship is in this scripture?** Read **Ephesians 1:15, 4:2, 4:15-16** and **5:2**

19: **What relationship is in this scripture?** Read **Ephesians 2:11-14**

20: **What relationship is in this scripture?** Read **Ephesians 5:25, 5:28** and **5:33**

21: **What relationship is in this scripture?** Read **Ephesians 6:1-4**

22: **What relationship is in this scripture?** Read **Ephesians 6:5-9**

The Writer and Receiver

23: **Who wrote Ephesians?** Read **Ephesians 1:1** _____

24: **Who was the letter written to?** Read **Ephesians 1:1** _____

25: **Why do most agree that Ephesians is a letter to churches in the region where Ephesus is the capital?**

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

Outline

The letter to the Saints in Ephesus can be divided into two halves. Chapters 1–3 and 4–6.

In the first half the writer reveals the identity of those in Christ Jesus – revealing time past, time now and time future inheritance. In the second half the writer reveals the practical outworking of the inheritance for those in Christ Jesus and what it is to live in the Kingdom of God in time now, in this world damaged by evil.

The letter has a construction to it. The introduction of the letter is Paul's greeting.

26: **What does Paul say is from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?**

Read **Ephesians 1:1–2**

Grace (undeserved, unlearned favour) and peace (perfect peace body, soul, spirit emotions).

Read **Ephesians 1:9–10**

27: What is God's will and plan that He has revealed to us?

28: Who is the one who restores harmony and shalom (perfect peace) to all the universe, both in heaven and on earth?

29: What are the two areas or domains that are gathered together in one in Christ?

Listen to the *Jesus Loves the World* podcast - The Journey Through Ephesians -

The Two Spheres>

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/125222/13617227-journey-through-ephesians-the-two-spheres>

30: Who created the heavens and the earth? Read **Genesis 1:1**

31: What does Ephesians say about things in heavenly places? Read **Ephesians 1:3**

32: What does Ephesians say about things in heaven? Read **Ephesians 1:10**

33: What does Ephesians say about things in heavenly places? Read **Ephesians 1:20**

34: What does Ephesians say about things in heavenly places? Read **Ephesians 2:6**

35: **What does Ephesians say about things in heaven?** Read **Ephesians 3:14–15** (NKJV)

36: **What does Ephesians say about things above the heavens?** Read **Ephesians 4:10**

37: **What does Ephesians say about things in heaven?** Read **Ephesians 6:9**

38: **What does Ephesians say about things in heavenly places?** Read **Ephesians 3:10**

39: **What does Ephesians say about things in heavenly places?** Read **Ephesians 6:12**

40: **What does Ephesians say about the things on earth?** Read **Ephesians 1:10**

41: **What does Ephesians say about the things on earth?** Read **Ephesians 3:14–15**
(NKJV)

42: **What does Ephesians say about the things on earth?** Read **Ephesians 4:9**

43: **Who is the supreme power and authority over both places?**

Ephesians teaches much about the Kingdom of God and the power and authority given to all the saints living on earth in time now, in this world damaged by evil.

44: **What is the one thing you learn about God from this session?**

45: **What is your practical response/prayer?**

Identity in Christ Jesus – Accepted as I Am

Listen to the *jesus loves : the world* podcast - True Identity [Part 2]

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/125222/789477-true-identity-part-2-ephesians-1>

Read **Ephesians 1:3–14**. Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

46: **What in time now do we already possess as a result of God the Father giving us Jesus Christ?** Read **verse 3**

47: **Where is this blessing?**

48: **Who are we in and one with, to receive all this?**

In time now, as Christ is seated in a place of authority in the heavenly places, so are we. In Christ we have every spiritual blessing. The next verses outline some of the details of these blessings.

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49: **Who are we in Christ (in time now)?** Make it personal and write 'I am' before your answer. Read **verses 4–5**

50: **Who are we in Christ in time now?** Make it personal and write 'I am' before your answer. Read **verse 6**

51: **Who are we in Christ in time now?** Make it personal and write 'I am' before your answer. Read **verse 7**

52: **Who are we in Christ in time now?** Make it personal and write 'I have' and 'I am' before your answer. Read **verse 11**

53: **Who are we in Christ in time now?** Make it personal and write 'I am' before your answer. Read **verses 13–14**

54: **What is the one thing you have learnt about God from this session?**

55: **What is your practical response/prayer?**

Prayer for the Saints

Remember the Apostle Paul has already affirmed what Jesus has done and who we are in Him. However, Paul prays for them in a powerful way that builds on the foundation of Jesus and is relevant for every disciple in their daily walk with Him.

Read **Ephesians 1:15–20**

56: **Who does the Apostle Paul pray to?** Read **verse 17**

57: **What does the Apostle Paul pray for the saints?** Read **verse 17**

58: **What does the Apostle Paul pray for the saints?** Read **verse 18**

59: **What does the Apostle Paul pray for the saints?** Read **verse 19–20**

60: **What does the content of Paul's prayer mean to you?**

Power and Authority

Read **Ephesians 1:21–23**. Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Discuss your observations.

61: **How much power and authority does Jesus have in time now and time future?**

Read **verse 21**

Highest power and authority. Above all principality, power, might, dominion and everything that is named.

God's power is seen in Christ Jesus:

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____

62: Who having all power and authority is gifted to the church? Read verse 22–23

63: Who is the body of Jesus Christ?

64: Who are the feet of Jesus Christ? Read verse 22–23

65: Who is the head of the body?

66: What happened in time past? Read verse 20–21

67: Who in time now has been transferred into Christ's domain of power and authority over the flesh and the powers? Read verse 22–23

We the church, that is all disciples of Jesus (the body of Christ) have been transferred into His domain where He is the head. Living in and from His place of authority, position and power, to rule and reign in this life.

68: **For whose benefit has all God's power been working?** Read **verse 19**

69: **What does all this mean for us today?**

Write a summary and make it personal of what God's power has done for us according to **Ephesians 1**.

Made Alive in Christ

Read **Ephesians 2:1–10**. Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Discuss your observations.

70: **What do we have in Christ Jesus in time now?** Read **verses 5–6**

71: **Why did God make us alive and raise us up to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ's power and authority?** Read **verses 4–7**

72: **How does God protect us from pride?** Read **verse 8–9**

73: **What are we in Christ?** Read **verse 10**

74: **What is the one thing you learn about God from this session?**

75: **What is your practical response/prayer?**

Brought Near, by His Blood, One in Christ Jesus

Read **Ephesians 2:11–22**. Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.
Discuss your observations.

76: **Who are now one in Christ Jesus, Equal – equal?** Read **Ephesians 2:11–18**

77: **How has God brought Gentiles and Jews together as one, equal – equal?**

78: **Who are being built together in Jesus into one family?** Read **Ephesians 2:19–22**

79: **What does being built on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets mean?**

Read **Ephesians 2:20**

80: **Who is the 'chief cornerstone' or supports all the weight of the building (of the body of believers)?** Read **Ephesians 2:20**

81: **Who is a holy temple, the dwelling place of God in the Spirit?**

The Mystery of Christ's Body

Read **Ephesians 3:1–12**. Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Discuss your observations.

82: **What is God's intention for the church now according to verses 10–11?**

Remembering **Ephesians 1:9–10** Where in the fullness of time, all things become one in Him.

1:

2:

3:

83: **When did God decide to bring all things in one in Christ Jesus?** Read **verse 11**

84: **What do we have in Christ Jesus according to verse 12?**

85: **What does that mean for us today?**

86: **What is the one thing you learn about God from this session?**

87: **What is your practical response/prayer?**

Prayer for the Saints

Read **Ephesians 3:14–21**. Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Discuss your observations.

88: **What reason does the Apostle Paul give as to why he bows His knees to the Father and prays for the saints?** (The saints of Ephesus are both the Jews and Gentiles who have received Jesus).

Read **Ephesians 2:19–22**

The first readers of the letter have together become the temple of God, the place where God dwells in the Spirit. They are members of God's family, a new humanity in Christ, equal - equal. It is for this reason Paul now prays a prayer for their journey with Jesus and the Father.

Discipleship starts with receiving Jesus, but is a daily journey to grow and live in the fullness of Him. Being transformed by Him as we daily surrender to His right to rule and reign. Praying from a caring heart which Jesus has transformed him to be.

89: What does the Apostle Paul pray for all the saints? Read **verse 16**

90: What does the Apostle Paul pray for all the saints? Read **verse 17**

This transforming power is linked to the Spirit of Christ dwelling in their hearts and the practical outworking of all this is revealed in the relationships that are outlined the next chapters 3-6.

91: What does the Apostle Paul pray for all the saints? Read **verse 18–19**

92: **What are the saints rooted and grounded in?**

93: **Who is the only one who is able to do this work in us?** Read **verses 20–21**

94: **In whom did God choose, in love, to reveal His glory and fullness?**

Living in the Kingdom of God (in a World Damaged by Evil).

As we learnt His Spirit brings unity and peace, as both Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, equal–equal, as one body. Read again **Ephesians 1:8–10**

95: **What is the God produced fruit of living in the reality of the fullness of His truth?**

Read **Ephesians 4:1–6**

Remember the Secret of Success

Do the secret of success practical once again with the handout.

https://jesuslovestheworld.info/wp-content/uploads/Vine_Discipleship_English.pdf

The Jesus tree produces Jesus fruit.

The Old Man and New Man

Read **Ephesians 4:7–16**

96: **Why did Jesus give gifts of apostles (those who are sent), prophets (those who speak God's truth), evangelists (those who declare the Good News of Jesus), pastors (those who shepherd and care for the people) and teachers (those who instruct on God's truth) to the disciples of Jesus?** Read **verses 12,15–16**

97: **Who is God doing His work through?**

98: **What brings sorrow to the Holy Spirit, in the context of Ephesians and God's plan of oneness in Christ?** Read **verses 25–32**

99: **What is the Apostle Paul's practical advice to the saints, for them to live in the reality of God's love?** Read **verses 31–32**

100: **What is the one thing you learn about God from this session?**

101: **What is your practical response/prayer?**

Relationships

Read **Ephesians 5:1–14**, Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Discuss your observations.

102: **What is the fruit of being surrendered to our Father's will, being immersed in His presence?** Read **verse 2**

103: **What does the Apostle Paul declare over the saints that has no part of their identity anymore?** Read **verse 3**

104: **What does the Apostle Paul declare over the saints that has no part of their identity anymore?** Read **verse 4**

105: **Who are the sons of disobedience?** Read **verse 6**

106: **What does the Apostle Paul mean when he writes in verse 7 'do not be partakers of with them' (the sons of disobedience)?**

Read **Ephesians 5:15–21**. Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.
Discuss your observations.

107: **What are wise and fruitful choices for the saints to make, living in this world damaged by evil?** Read **verses 16–18**

108: **What are the practical outworking of living in this reality?** Read **verses 19–21**

Read **Ephesians 5:22–33**

To give correct meaning to this text we need to understand the situation and the main themes of the letter and God's eternal plan. These are power, relationships. Through our relationship with Jesus we are one in Him, each one equal. We need to read this text not through our eyes of our selfish desires but through God's transforming work of giving us His eyes of love.

109: **How can we see the Kingdom of God outwork in our relationships in this world damaged by evil?**

110: **What did God declare over His creation that included man and woman?**

Read **Genesis 1:31**

Read **Genesis 1:27–28**

111: **In whose image did God create man?**

112: **In whose image did God create woman?**

113: **Who did God bless equally?**

114: **Who did God give equal dominion (power to rule) over all the earth?**

Read **Genesis 2:18–20**

God refers to woman in this verse as a helper comparable with man. This means someone to come alongside, someone of the same kind of flesh, yet different. Someone equal with man, who together they can become one. Someone who completes man as a person created in God's image. In the Old Testament of God's word, the word helper is mostly used in reference to God coming alongside man. In the New Testament of God's word, Jesus Himself refers to God's Spirit or presence as our helper.

115: Did God create man and woman equal or unequal?

Man and woman were God's masterpiece of all creation. Man (both male and female) received the breath of God, equal to each other, to complement each other and have an equal relationship with the Creator God and each other.

Man and woman were DESIGNED FOR GOOD...equal-equal.

116: Is today's world perfect?

Something happened to change God's perfect world. Remember God gave man and woman dominion over all the earth with the privilege to look after God's perfect world. He gave them everything to live victoriously with Him.

God created man and woman with a freedom to choose life or death, to choose to partake of God's wisdom and the tree of life, or choose to partake of the evil one's deception and partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

117: What was the choice God gave man (both male and female)? Read **Genesis 2:8–9** and **Genesis 2:15–17**

Before the end of the third chapter in Genesis, the first man and first woman chose to partake of the evil one's deception and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, instead of God's wisdom and the tree of life.

Man and woman chose a relationship of distrust, distance and rejection of God's wisdom, leading ultimately to death and ruin. Rather than a relationship of trust, intimacy and receiving God's wisdom, leading ultimately to life and fruitfulness. Man and woman allowed death and evil to enter into God's perfect world.

Read **Genesis 3:1–7** and **Genesis 3:16–17**

118: What is now the relationship between man and woman, equal or unequal?

Read **Genesis 4:7**

119: What is the meaning of the word 'desire' in this context of Genesis 4:7 and Genesis 3:16–17?

120: What is the meaning of the word 'rule' in this context of Genesis 4:7 and Genesis 3:16–17?

121: What does a woman damaged by evil now want to do to a man?

122: What does a man damaged by evil now want to do to a woman?

Man and woman are DAMAGED BY EVIL...unequal–unequal.

But the story does not end there. God in His great love came down into His own creation as a man of flesh and blood and, on the cross, takes upon Himself all the damage, disease, death and evil that entered this world as a result of man's offence. Jesus comes back to life, overcoming all the damage, disease, death and evil, restoring us for the better.

Man and woman are RESTORED FOR BETTER...equal–equal

Back to **Ephesians 5:21–33**

123: What is Paul's solution to man's flesh desire to dominate and woman's flesh desire to manipulate and control?

124: What relationship is Paul using to reveal God's great love and plan?

Christ and the church are one in Him male and female equal equal.

But the story still does not end there. God in His great love gives us His power and authority to condemn the lies of the evil one, to know the truth as to not be deceived, and to live in the victory over our self-centred, self-glorification desires, the evil one and evil itself in a world damaged by evil.

When we give over our selfish desires to control and dominate another to get what self wants, we are in a continual state of surrender to the will of our Father. Receiving all that Jesus came as flesh and blood, died, rose and ascended on high to give us. Our old self dies and we truly live in time now, in a world damaged by evil.

God in His great love gives us a part in His plan of restoration and healing mission.

Man and woman are SENT TO HEAL...equal–equal

125: Why was Ephesians 5:21–33 written?

126: What is the one thing you learn about God from this session?

127: What is your practical response/prayer?

Put on God's Full Armour

Read **Ephesians 6:10–13**. Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Discuss your observations.

In the context of Ephesians the purpose of being clothed in God's armour is so that every disciple will be able to stand in the confidence and hope in the One who has overcome it all.

Stand in this context is in direct relationship with God's exceedingly great power and His armour. It is, to cause or make to stand, abide, to make firm, fix, establish, to set in balance and be safe.

It is God who gives us of Himself and empowers us to stand by giving us His armour. The very same armour that Jesus in His humanity clothed Himself in.

To put on the whole armour means to literally sink into, in other words be immersed in God Himself, having been identified with Him.

128: **What does the Apostle Paul declare over the saints?** Read **verse 10**

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, remember what the Apostle Paul prayed in **Ephesians 3:16**.

Be strong or strengthened has already been used in relation to God's all-powerful strength which raised Christ from the dead and exalted him to the place of honour, far above all rule and authority **Ephesians 1:19-20**.

129: **Who is the source of this strength?**

130: **How are we able to stand?**

131: **What is the first piece of God's armour that we are clothed in, in order to live in victory in this world damaged by evil?** Read **verse 14** (NKJV)

132: **Who is the truth?** Read **John 14:6**

133: **What does the truth do?** Read **John 8:32**

134: **What does knowing the truth about God and ourselves in Him enable us to do?**

135: **What is the second piece of God's armour that we are clothed in, in order to live in victory in this world damaged by evil?** Read **verse 14** (NKJV)

136: **What area of the body does the breastplate protect?**

137: **What is the third piece of God's armour that we are clothed in, in order to live in victory in this world damaged by evil?** Read **verse 15** (NKJV)

138: **What area of the body does the Gospel of peace protect?**

139: **What is the fourth piece of God's armour that we are clothed in, in order to live in victory in this world damaged by evil?** Read **verse 16**

140: **What does the shield of faith protect us from?**

141: **What is the fifth piece of God's armour that we are clothed in, in order to live in victory in this world damaged by evil?** Read **verse 17**

142: **What area of the body does the helmet of salvation protect?**

143: **What is the sixth piece of God's armour that we are clothed in, in order to live in victory in this world damaged by evil?** Read **verse 17**

144: **What is the full meaning of the word of God in this context?**

Paul's Salutation of Grace

145: **What does Paul declare over the brethren to conclude the letter?** Read **Ephesians 6:23–24**

Peace and love with faith from God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with you.

146: **What is the one thing you learn about God from this session?**

147: **What is your practical response/prayer?**
