

Ephesians: Our Identity as Saints

The church in Ephesus is the most remarkable church in the New Testament. It started at the end of Paul's second missionary journey in Acts 18:18 and impacted in Asia Minor in such a fantastic manner that every resident heard the word of the Lord (Acts 19:10). When Paul wrote this letter sometime between 53-57AD, the church was still very young, maybe three to six years old. The letter is addressed to the saints who were largely Gentile, perhaps from as many as 50 different ethnic groups. Since it is written to a non-Jewish audience, Ephesians is an ideal letter for new Christians to study because they do not need to know about Jewish history or the sacrificial and priestly systems. Instead, the letter focuses on what these new saints, who were adopted into God's family (Eph 1:5), needed to understand about their identity as the body of Christ and how that identity compelled them on God's mission to unite all things in Christ (Eph 1:9-10). The letter to the saints at Ephesus shows us a unifying theme of a church united in their identity to fulfill God's will of more people following Him to the praise of His glory.

Outline of Ephesians

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Missiological Theism (1:3-23)
 - A. Father (1:3-6)
 - B. Christology – Jesus Christ (1:7-12)
 - C. Pneumatology – Holy Spirit (1:13-14)
 - D. Paul's prayer (1:15-23)
- III. Theological Anthropology – Humanity (2:1-22)
 - A. Hamartiology – Sin (2:1-3)
 - B. Soteriology – Salvation (2:4-10)
 - C. Ecclesiology – Church (2:11-22)
- IV. Missiology (3:1-21)
- V. Missiological Ecclesiology (4:1-6:20)
 - A. Ecclesiology II – Church (4:1-10)
 - B. Charismata – Spiritual Gifts (4:11-16)
 - C. Christian Conduct (4:17-5:17)
 - D. Christian Submission (5:18-6:9)
 - E. Christian Battle (6:10-20)
- VI. Final Salutation (6:21-24)



Discovery Group – Our Identity as Saints

	Belief (Missiological Theism)	Behavior (Missiological Praxis)	Belonging (Missiological Ecclesiology)
Chapter 1	The Trinity (vv. 3, 5, 9, 13) Resurrection, Ascension, and Session of Christ (vv. 20, 22) Blessed with every spiritual blessing (v. 3) Salvation power (vv. 7, 13, 19)	Holy & Blameless (v. 4) Our election, predestination, and adoption to accomplish God's will (vv. 4, 5, 10, 11) Prayer for others (vv. 15-23)	Collective grace and peace (v. 2) An inheritance (vv. 14, 18) Belonging to each other
Chapter 2	Dead in sins, alive in Christ (vv. 1-5) Saved by faith (vv. 8-9) God's handiwork (v. 10)	Do good works (v. 10)	Fellow citizens with God's people (vv. 14-19) Peace (v. 14) Grace given (vv. 8-9)
Chapter 3	God accomplishes His purpose in Christ (vv. 8-9)	Boldness & Confidence (v. 12) Bow knees in prayer (v. 14) Declaring the manifold wisdom of God (v. 10)	One body and fellow heirs (v. 6) Rooted in love (v. 17)
Chapter 4	Trinity (vv. 3, 5-6) Christ gives gifts (v. 7)	Live a life worthy of calling (v. 1) Equipping the saints (vv. 11-12) Instructions for Christian life (vv. 17-32)	Unified in Christ, belief, action (vv.4-6) Being a mature body (vv. 13-16)
Chapter 5	Christ's sacrifice (v. 2) Ministry of the Holy Spirit (v. 18) Christ gives himself for the church (vv. 25-27)	Imitators of God (v. 1) Walk in love (v. 2) Walk in light, purity, and holiness rather than foolishness (vv. 8-17)	Submitting to one another (vv. 21-24) Belonging to Christ Corporate worship (vv. 19-20)
Chapter 6	Devil's powers against us (vv. 11-12)	Honor parents (vv. 1-3) Instructions for fathers (v. 4) Serving as if doing it for Christ (vv. 5-9) Put on the armor of God (vv.11-20) Proclaim the gospel (vv. 19-20)	In the spiritual battle together (vv. 10, 14) Endure and pray for each other (v. 18)