

“The quintessence of (Paul)” because it “sums up the leading themes of (his) letters & sets forth the cosmic implications of Paul’s mission... to the Gentiles.”

—F.F. Bruce

GOD’S HOLY & HOPEFUL PEOPLE

An Introduction
to Ephesians

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An Intro to
Ephesians

Three goals for studying the letter together:

- Better appreciation of our identity in Christ. (2:4-7)
- Consistent & biblical emphasis on our unity. (4:1-8)
- Reigniting our hope in the victory of Christ. (1:18)

Do this following the two-fold decree in [4:15]:

- *Speak the (1) Truth in (2) love so we'll grow in Christ.*
- We need reason & emotion to imitate God's Design.

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What do we know about the letter?

- A prison letter (6:20) from Paul *likely* to Ephesus [Col 4:16].
- Appears connected & similar to the issues at Colossae.
- Includes Paul's usual themes: Christ, His church, His ascension.
The past, present, & future of salvation. 1:21, 2:5-8, 6:10-20

Why did Paul write? [1:15-16, v17-19] cf. 2:11-12

- "To equip the saints... to be faithful... & to guard & grow."
- He prays about their faith & love AND that they'd know HOPE!

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If Paul wrote us, what would he say?

- Would he say he has, “heard of our love”?
- How would he *stimulate love & good works*? (Heb 10:25)
- He’d likely encourage *walking as children of light* [Eph 5:3-12].
- Based on ratio, Ephesians emphasizes love the most:
 - Romans (15x) 1 Cor (14x) 2 Cor (13x) Eph (14x) Col, Gal, Php (5x)

Two verses often put forward as “key”:

- The “new humanity” of [2:14-16] OR [1:7-10]
- *The Father wants EVERYone to submit to Christ & be sealed w/ The Holy Spirit.*

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The New Humanity, A Divine Creation Ch 1-3

- (1) Paul's Praise of God & Prayers For God's People
- (2) God's New Temple Is God's New People
- (3) Paul's Mission & His Prayer For God's Power

The New Man's Life On Earth Ch 4-6

- (4) Maintain The New Unity By A New Life
- (5) Come Out Of The Darkness & Into The Light!
- (6) Find Strength In The Lord For the Daily Fight!

The practical application (what) comes after the belief (why).