
Ephesians

I. The Believer's Position in Christ (Ephesians 1-3)

Introduction (1:1-2)

A. Our High Calling in Christ (1:3-23)

1. Christians have been called to a rich relationship with Jesus Christ (1:3-14).

a. The Believer's Election (1:3-6)

(1) We have the blessing of Almighty God in our lives (1:3).

(2) We have been chosen for a special relationship with God (1:4).

(3) We have been adopted into God's family forever (1:5).

(4) We have become the recipients of God's glorious grace (1:6).

b. The Believer's Redemption (1:7-10)

(1) We have been redeemed to a life of freedom with God (1:7-8).

(2) We have become the recipients of the revealed truth of God (1:9-10).

c. The Believer's Inheritance (1:11-12)

(1) We have been made heirs of the wealth of God (1:11).

(2) We have become a source of praise regarding God's spectacular glory (1:12).

- d. The Believer's Security (1:13-14)
 - (1) We have been delivered from death to life through the gospel (1:13a).
 - (2) We have been eternally sealed with the Holy Spirit of God (1:13b-14).
- 2. Christians have been called to a deeper life in Jesus Christ (1:15-23).
 - a. A Life of Prayer (1:15-17)
 - (1) We will deepen our relationship with God when we build consistency in our prayer life (1:15-16).
 - (2) We will deepen our relationship with God when we rely on the indwelling Holy Spirit to guide us in knowing God (1:17).
 - b. A Life of Hope (1:18)
 - (1) We will deepen our relationship with God when we keep our perspective on our eternal hope (1:18a).
 - (2) We will deepen our relationship with God when we live up to our exalted position as an heir of God (1:18b).
 - c. A Life of Power (1:19-23)
 - (1) We will deepen our relationship with God when we tap into the incomparably great power of God (1:19-20).
 - (2) We will deepen our relationship with God when we lay hold of the truth of Christ's absolute lordship over the universe (1:21).
 - (3) We will deepen our relationship with God when we gladly submit to Christ as obedient servants in His church (1:22-23).
- B. Our Remarkable Transformation in Christ (2:1-22)
 - 1. Regeneration—those who were dead have been made alive (2:1-10).
 - a. Without Jesus Christ our lives are characterized by death, sin, and wrath (2:1-3).

- b. God has intervened through His loving mercy by granting us life, power, and dignity (2:4-7).
 - c. This transformed life is available only by grace, through faith, resulting in good works (2:8-10).
 - 2. Reconciliation—those who were aliens have been made citizens (2:11-22).
 - a. Without Jesus Christ we were excluded from the blessings of God (2:11-13).
 - b. Through Jesus Christ we were reconciled to peace with God (2:14-18).
 - c. In Jesus Christ we are being built up for the glory of God (2:19-22).
- C. Our Incomparable Mission in Christ (3:1-21)
 - 1. The Mystery of God's Grace (3:1-13)
 - a. God has an unfolding master plan for administering His grace (3:1-5).
 - b. God has an unparalleled message for reaching the lost (3:6).
 - c. God has an unusual method for proclaiming His riches (3:7-9).
 - d. God has an unswerving motivation for fulfilling His purposes (3:10-13).
 - 2. The Power of Personal Prayer (3:14-21)
 - a. When we pray for ourselves and others, we should pray for inner strength (3:14-17).
 - b. When we pray for ourselves and others, we should pray for experiential love (3:18-19a).
 - c. When we pray for ourselves and others, we should pray for God-like character (3:19b).
 - d. When we pray for ourselves and others, we should pray for immeasurable confidence (3:20-21).

II. The Believer's Practice in the Church (Ephesians 4-6)

A. A Serving Walk (4:1-16)

1. Spiritual Unity for Christian Service (4:1-6)

- a. Build a consistent and meaningful walk with Jesus Christ, characterized by full submission to His high calling (4:1).
- b. Commit yourself to genuine selfless living, humbly placing the needs of others before your own interests (4:2-3).
- c. Focus on the vast expanse of common core truths, putting minor difference into perspective (4:4-6).

2. Spiritual Gifts for Christian Service (4:7-16)

- a. Jesus Christ has granted every believer special abilities called spiritual gifts (4:7-10).
- b. Jesus Christ has called every believer to a distinct place of spiritual service (4:11-12).
- c. Jesus Christ leads every believer toward the ultimate goal of spiritual maturity (4:13-16).
 - (1) Spiritual maturity involves becoming personally Christlike (4:13).
 - (2) Spiritual maturity involves becoming doctrinally grounded (4:14).
 - (3) Spiritual maturity involves becoming lovingly honest (4:15).
 - (4) Spiritual maturity involves becoming cooperatively active (4:16).

B. A Separated Walk (4:17—5:14)

1. Separation from the "Old Man" (4:17-32)

- a. Without Jesus Christ we are helpless, becoming more and more captivated by our sins (4:17-19).

- b. In Jesus Christ we are renewed, replacing old sinful patterns with new godly qualities (4:20-24).
 - a. Through Jesus Christ we are growing, developing specific responses to persistent temptations (4:25-32).
 - (1) Resist lying by speaking the truth (4:25).
 - (2) Resist inappropriate anger by limiting its influence (4:26).
 - (3) Resist compromise by refusing to give the devil a foothold (4:27).
 - (4) Resist stealing by sharing the rewards of your hard work (4:28).
 - (5) Resist corrupt speech by speaking edifying words (4:29).
 - (6) Resist grieving the Holy Spirit by recognizing His sealing work in your life (4:30).
 - (7) Resist bitterness by offering forgiveness (4:31-32).
2. Separation from the Old Manners (5:1-14)
- a. When it comes to love, imitate God (5:1-2).
 - b. When it comes to purity, imitate God (5:3-4).
 - c. When it comes to relationships, imitate God (5:5-7).
 - d. When it comes to integrity, imitate God (5:8-10).
 - e. When it comes to influence, imitate God (5:11-14).
- C. A Spirit-Filled Walk (5:15-21)
1. Conformed to the Holy Spirit (5:15-17)
- a. Walk in the wisdom of God (5:15-16).

- b. Understand the will of God (5:17).
2. Controlled by the Holy Spirit (5:18-21)
 - a. Spirit-filled believers are influenced by the Holy Spirit (5:18).
 - b. Spirit-filled believers engage in corporate worship (5:19a).
 - c. Spirit-filled believers sing praise to God in their hearts (5:19b).
 - d. Spirit-filled believers give thanks to God in all circumstances (5:20).
 - e. Spirit-filled believers submit to one another (5:21).
- D. A Submissive Walk (5:22—6:9)
1. Submission in Husband-Wife Relationships (5:22-33)
 - a. You can make the most of your marriage when you respect God's ordained design for the home (5:22-24).
 - b. You can make the most of your marriage when you exhibit Christ-like love in the home (5:25-30).
 - c. You can make the most of your marriage when you grown toward greater personal intimacy in the home (5:31-33).
 2. Submission in Parent-Child Relationships (6:1-4)
 - a. Christian children honor Christ by honoring their parents (6:1-3).
 - b. Christian parents honor Christ by raising their children with godly principles (6:4).
 3. Submission in Master-Slave Relationships (6:5-9)
 - a. Christian employees honor Christ by living out a proper work ethic (6:5-8).
 - b. Christian employers honor Christ by treating their workers as they themselves would like to be treated (6:9).

E. A Steadfast Walk (6:10-20)

1. The Adversary in the Warfare (6:10-12)

- a. Knowing our enemy demands that we depend on the Lord's power (6:10).
- b. Knowing our enemy requires us to put on the armor of God (6:11).
- c. Knowing our enemy compels us to recognize the spiritual nature of our battle (6:12).

2. The Armor for the Warfare (6:13-20)

- a. Know your objective—aim for a steadfast life (6:13).
- b. Know your resources—make constant use of God's protective armor (6:14-17).
- c. Know your strategy—implement a persistent plan for prayer (6:18-20).

Conclusion (6:21-24)