



Bob Lenderman

# Ephesians:

## Study Notes

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# **EPHESIANS: Study Notes**

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# Book of Ephesians: Study Notes

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## SECTION 1: What is Ephesians all about?

- **Q: What is the main message of the Book of Ephesians?**
  - **A:** Ephesians is about the amazing plan God has for His church. It explains how God brought Jewish and Gentile believers together into one family through Jesus Christ. It also tells us how we should live as a result of God's love and grace.
- **Q: Who wrote the Book of Ephesians?**
  - **A:** The Apostle Paul wrote this letter.
- **Q: Who was Ephesians written to?**
  - **A:** It was written to the believers in Ephesus, which was a major city in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). It was likely intended for a wider audience of churches in that region as well.

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## SECTION 2: God's Amazing Plan (Chapters 1-3)

- **Q: What does Paul say about God's plan before the world even began?**
  - **A:** Paul says that God chose us to be His children through Jesus Christ before the world was created. This was all part of God's loving plan and purpose.

- **Q: What does it mean to be "blessed" by God in Chapter 1?**
  - **A:** It means we have received every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. This includes forgiveness, adoption as His children, and the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- **Q: What is the role of Jesus Christ in God's plan?**
  - **A:** Jesus is central to everything! Through His death, we are forgiven and have redemption (being set free). He is also the one who brings everything in heaven and on earth together under Himself.
- **Q: What is the Holy Spirit's job in this plan?**
  - **A:** The Holy Spirit is like a down payment or a guarantee of our future inheritance. He seals us, marking us as belonging to God, and gives us power.
- **Q: What was the situation *before* Jesus for Gentiles (non-Jewish people)?**
  - **A:** Before Jesus, Gentiles were separated from God, without hope, and without God in the world.
- **Q: How did Jesus change things for both Jews and Gentiles?**
  - **A:** Jesus broke down the "wall of hostility" that separated Jews and Gentiles. He made them one new people in Himself by uniting them.

- **Q: What is the church described as in Ephesians?**

- **A:** The church is described as:
  - God's household or family.
  - A holy temple where God lives by His Spirit.
  - Christ's body.

- **Q: What is Paul's prayer for the believers in Ephesus?**

- **A:** Paul prays that they would be strengthened by God's Spirit, that Christ would live in their hearts through faith, and that they would understand God's immense love. He also prays for them to be filled with all the fullness of God.

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### **SECTION 3: Living the New Life (Chapters 4-6)**

- **Q: Now that God has done all this, how should believers live?**

- **A:** Believers should live in a way that is worthy of God's calling. This means unity, humility, gentleness, and patience.

- **Q: What are some specific things Paul tells believers to *stop* doing?**

- **A:** Stop living like the non-believers around them. This includes:
  - Meaningless thinking.

- Being darkened in their understanding.
  - Being greedy.
  - Lying.
  - Being angry and not forgiving.
  - Stealing.
  - Using harmful or rude speech.
- **Q: What are some specific things Paul tells believers to *start* doing?**
    - **A:** Put on new ways of living, like:
      - Being truthful.
      - Being angry but not sinning (deal with anger properly).
      - Working hard and using their hands to provide.
      - Speaking kindly and helpfully.
      - Being kind and forgiving each other, just as God forgave you in Christ.
      - Following Christ's example of love.
- **Q: How should believers treat each other in the church?**
    - **A:** They should be united in the Spirit and live in peace. They should use their different spiritual gifts to build up the whole body of Christ.
- **Q: What is the "armor of God" and why is it important?**

- **A:** The armor of God is like spiritual protection that God provides so believers can stand against the tricks and attacks of the devil.
- **Q: What are the pieces of the armor of God?**
  - **A:**
    - Belt of truth.
    - Breastplate of righteousness.
    - Feet fitted with readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.
    - Shield of faith (to extinguish flaming arrows of the evil one).
    - Helmet of salvation.
    - Sword of the Spirit (which is the Word of God).
- **Q: What is the importance of prayer in this new life?**
  - **A:** Believers are called to pray always, in the Spirit, for all God's people, and for Paul himself.
- **Q: How should different relationships work? (Husbands/Wives, Parents/Children, Slaves/Masters)**
  - **A:** These relationships should reflect Christ's love and the church's submission to Him.
    - **Wives:** Submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

- **Husbands:** Love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.
  - **Children:** Obey your parents in the Lord.
  - **Fathers:** Do not exasperate your children; bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
  - **Slaves:** Obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, sincerely, as you would obey Christ.
  - **Masters:** Treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, remembering that you both have the same Master in heaven, and He shows no favoritism.
- **Q: What is the final encouragement Paul gives?**
    - **A:** Stand firm in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God.

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### **Key Themes to Remember:**

- **God's Sovereign Plan:** God planned everything from before time began.
- **Unity in Christ:** Jesus brings together all people into one family, the church.
- **Grace and Forgiveness:** We are saved and forgiven not by our own doings, but by God's grace through Jesus.

- **New Life:** Because of what God has done, we are called to live a new life, different from the world.
- **Spiritual Warfare:** We need God's strength and armor to stand against evil.
- **Love and Relationships:** Our relationships should honor God and reflect His love.