

Study Questions

For New Testament Books of the Bible

Ephesians

Chapter 1

1. Who was the author of Ephesians? When was this letter written? Where was the author writing from and to whom was this letter written? What was the purpose of this letter? Why did the author write this letter?
2. Paul writes in verse 3, “.....God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the **heavenly realms** because we belong to Christ.” What does he mean?
3. **CONTINUING QUESTION:** The Holy Spirit, identifies us as belonging to God, and is God’s guarantee that we will receive our promised inheritance. Reread the previous question (#2). Our spiritual bank account is full of spiritual blessings. Identify and name (as many as you can) the spiritual blessings Paul cites in this chapter (1) only.
4. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Paul says that God chose us long before He created the world (v.4). What does this mean to you?
5. What is God’s “unchanging plan” i.e., what is the plan God decided in advance for us? (v.5)?
6. In verse 9, why does Paul refer to God’s plan for us as a “secret” or a “mystery.”
7. **REFLECTION:** God sent Jesus to secure our eternal salvation and to reconcile us to Himself. Can you think of any other reasons why God sent Jesus to Earth?
8. **BIBLE SEARCH:** In verse 14, we are told that the Holy Spirit, which Christ sent to indwell us, is God’s guarantee that He will give us everything He promised; and that He purchased us through the blood of Christ to be His own people. Why did God do this? (Hint: see Ephesians 1:14, NLT 2004 on www.Biblegateway.com)
9. Why does Paul ask God to give Christians, “spiritual wisdom and understanding” (v.17)?
10. How does Paul describe the incredible or mighty power available for those who believe in God (v.19).
11. What authority did God give the resurrected Christ?
12. Paul says that the church is Jesus’ body (v.23). What does this mean?

Ephesians Chapter 2

1. **COMMENTARY SEARCH:** Why does Paul call Satan, “the mighty prince of the power of the air” (v.2)?
2. What does Paul mean when he says, “For He raised us from the dead along with Christ.” (v.6)
3. What does Paul mean when he also says, “.....and we are seated with Him in the heavenly realms.” (v.7)
4. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Paul says our salvation is a gift from God (v.8). Describe how you have personally accepted God’s gift.
5. **REFLECTION:** What do you think Paul meant when he said, “For we are God’s masterpiece.” (v.10a)
6. Why does Paul recount or remind believers’ of their past in verses 11-13?
7. **REFLECTION:** Paul says Christ Himself has made peace between Jews and Gentiles alike (v.14). If we are all one in Christ why do some Christ followers continue to make distinctions among Christians based on race, gender, religious denomination, etc.?
8. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** In Galatians we learned that certain Christian Jews called “Judaizers” wanted to require Gentiles to become Jews and follow Jewish law before they could become Christians. Which Scripture or passages in Ephesians explicitly show that the Judaizers were clearly wrong in their thinking?
9. In verse 17, why does Paul say that the Jews were near God and the Gentiles were far away from God?
10. Paul writes in verse 20, “We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.” What does this mean?
11. **CONTINUING QUESTION:** The Holy Spirit, identifies us as belonging to God, and is God’s guarantee that we will receive our promised inheritance. Our spiritual bank account is full of spiritual blessings. Identify and name (as many as you can) the spiritual blessings Paul cites in this chapter (2) only.

Ephesians Chapter 3

1. In verse 1, why does Paul say he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ for preaching to the Gentiles?
2. **REFLECTION:** How do you think Paul viewed his imprisonment in Rome?
3. In verse 3, what was the “secret plan” God revealed to Paul?
4. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Paul was not a particularly eloquent speaker before his conversion experience on that road to Damascus. Yet he effectively communicated the Gospel to hundreds of people. What does this tell you personally, about your own ability to share the Gospel.
5. Who are the “rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,” Paul is referring to in verse 10?
6. In verse 12, Paul says, “we can now come fearlessly into God’s presence, assured of his glad welcome.” What does Paul mean by this?
7. Why should we feel honored and encouraged by the things Paul and other Christian martyrs suffered (v.13)?
8. **REFLECTION:** Jesus Christ set the example of personal suffering so that others could be saved. Paul followed Christ’s example. The movie, “*The End of the Spear*,” told the true story of missionaries in the Amazonian jungle who **allowed** themselves to be killed without fighting back. The missionaries knew Christ, and were saved. The missionaries also realized that their Indian or native Amazonian attackers did not know Christ Jesus and were not saved. Subsequently, the missionaries would not fight back or kill the natives because the natives were not yet saved.
What persecution or suffering have you ever endured to bring the Gospel to others? Share your experience.
9. **REFLECTION:** Food for thought. In question 8, the example of the Amazonian missionaries who allowed themselves to be martyred was cited. Think about and discuss the following questions:
 - (a) Did the missionaries do the right thing in allowing themselves to be martyred?
 - (b) Was the missionaries sacrifice needless?
 - (c) If the missionaries had defended themselves and killed the Amazonian natives, what then?
Would the natives have been forever lost to Christ?
10. In verse 18, Paul says, “And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is.” What does this mean? Elaborate. How wide is God’s love? How long is God’s love? How high is God’s love? How deep is God’s love?
11. **CONTINUING QUESTION:** The Holy Spirit, identifies us as belonging to God, and is God’s guarantee that we will receive our promised inheritance. Our spiritual bank account is full of spiritual blessings. Identify and name (as many as you can) the spiritual blessings Paul cites in this chapter (3) only.

Ephesians Chapter 4

1. To live a life worthy of being called by God, as Christians what character traits does Paul tell us to exhibit (v.1-3)?
2. In verses 4-6, Paul talks about unity in the body of Christ or the oneness of all believers. According to Paul, what are the ways in which believers are all one in Christ?
3. Although believers are one in Christ, Paul points out that God has made each of us different. How are believers different from each another (v. 7)?
4. God has given all believers special gifts. According to Paul, believers should use their special gifts for what purpose (v. 12)?
5. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** What special (or spiritual) gifts God has given you to build up the body of Christ? Are you using those gifts in ministry or in service to the church? Explain.
6. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Where in the Old Testament can we find the Scripture Paul cites in verse 8?
7. **BIBLE SEARCH - COMPARE/CONTRAST:** Investigate Psalms 68:18 comparing several Bible versions (e.g., CEV, KJV, NIV, NLT, etc., go to www.Biblegateway.com if necessary). How does Paul's interpretation of Psalms 68:18 (v.8) differ from most of the Bible versions you researched?
8. **REFLECTION:** What do you think Paul meant when he said, ".....His rule might fill the entire Universe." (v.10)
9. In verse 17, Paul admonishes us to ".....Live no longer as the ungodly...." Why not?
10. What does Paul say we should get rid of (v.31) and why (v.30)? What does Paul say we should do instead?
11. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Where are you on the road to accomplishing the goals Paul set for us in verses 31 and 32? What areas in these verses do you need to work on?

Ephesians Chapter 5

1. What sacrifice is Paul talking about in verse 2?
2. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Paul says that obscene stories, foolish talk and coarse jokes are not for Christ-followers (v.4). Are you guilty of initiating or showing approval of obscene stories, foolish talk and coarse jokes? How do you respond when someone tells an obscene story or a coarse joke? Explain.
3. **DICTIONARY/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** According to Paul, a greedy person is an idolater. What is an idolater?
4. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Do you have a friend or friends who are immoral, impure or greedy? Are you condoning their behavior or are you attempting to lead them to Christ? Why or why not?
5. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Where in Scripture did Jesus speak the truth (about the “light” and “darkness” in us) that Paul is referring to in verses 8 and 9?
6. How does Paul tell us to live (v.15)?
7. **REFLECTION:** In verse 24, Paul says, “As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything.” Whether you’re a male or a female, how do you feel about this? Discuss.
8. How does Paul instruct husbands to treat their wives (vs. 25-28)?
9. **REFLECTION:** Reread verses 21 – 33. How should Paul’s instructions work in a Christian marriage?
10. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Where in the Old Testament can we find the following passage? **“A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united as one.”**
11. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** In verse 20, Paul tells us to give thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Where are the following words (or their paraphrase) found in Scripture? **“.....we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”**

Ephesians Chapter 6

1. **DICTIONARY/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** What is the difference between obeying and honoring (v.1,2)?
2. **BIBLE/SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** In verse 2, Paul says, “This is the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise.” What is the promise and where is it found in the Old Testament?
3. **REFLECTION:** Can you think of a culture that, in general, observes the Fifth Commandment (*i.e., the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise*) more than most other cultures do?
4. According to Paul, why should respect, fear and serve their masters with sincerity and enthusiasm (v.5-8)?
5. How does Paul say we should work at our places of employment (v.6)?
6. In verse 12, who does Paul say we’re fighting against?
7. Name each piece of the Armor of God (v.11). Explain how each piece of God’s armor protects us.
8. Why does Paul say, “I am in chains now.....” (v.20)
9. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** In his closing, Paul mentions Tychicus as being a, “.....much loved brother and faithful helper.” Who is Tychicus and where else does Paul mention Tychicus in the Bible?
10. Restate the purpose of this epistle to the Ephesians.