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# EPHESIANS

MONTRE IMPRIMERIE



## **1400 - 450 BC**

- ❖ **1400-1300** - Ephesus is first occupied.
- ❖ **1000** - Greeks cross the Aegean Sea and settle in Ephesus.
- ❖ **561** - Croesus, king of Lydia, captures Ephesus.
- ❖ **560** - Temple of the moon goddess, Artemis, is funded and built by Croesus.
- ❖ **540-480** - Heraclitus of Ephesus, an early philosopher, lives.

## **450 - 85 BC**

- ❖ **356** - Herostratus burns the temple of Artemis.
- ❖ **323-281**- A 25,000-seat stadium is built in Ephesus during the reign of Lysimachus.
- ❖ **280-133** - Ephesus is under the control of the Seleucids and the Ptolemies.
- ❖ **133** - Ephesus comes under Roman control when King Attalus III of Pergamos wills his kingdom to Rome and the Roman province of Asia is created.
- ❖ **89** - The Ephesians rebel against Roman taxation, looking to Mithridates VI Eupathor, king of Pontus, as liberator. A large number of Italians are killed in the rebellion.

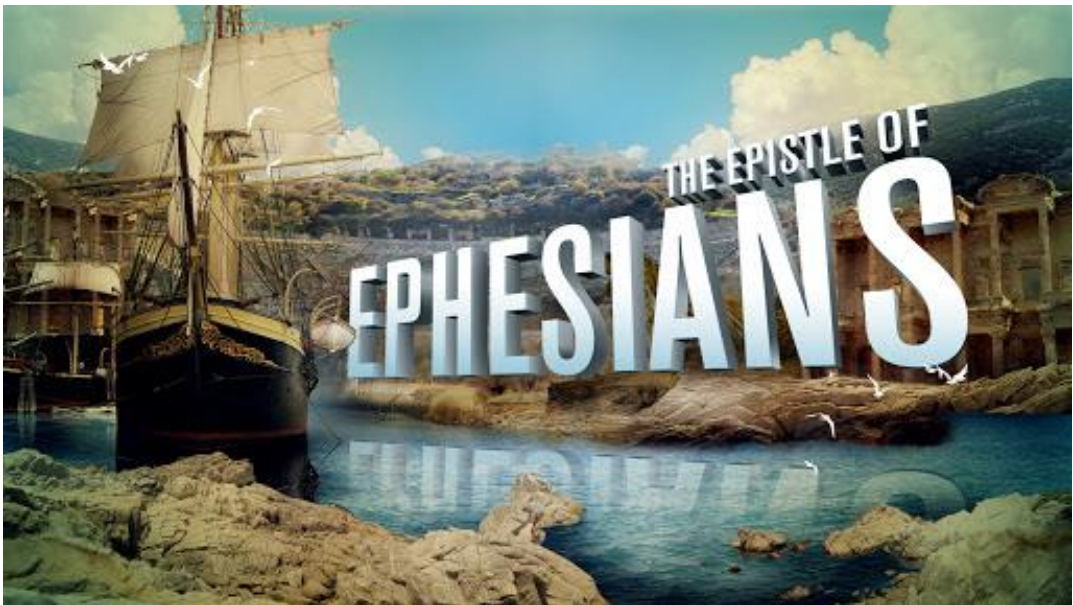
## **50 BC - AD 54**

- ❖ **33-32 BC** - Mark Antony and Cleopatra reside in Ephesus.
- ❖ **AD 17** - Ephesus experiences a destructive earthquake.

- ❖ **AD 36** - Conversion of Saul (Paul).
- ❖ **AD 52** - Paul travels through Ephesus toward the end of his second missionary journey.
- ❖ **AD 52** - Apollos comes to Ephesus and is mentored by Aquila and Priscilla.
- ❖ **AD 54** - Paul returns to Ephesus for a 2 ½ year ministry.

## **AD 55 – 110**

- ❖ **56** - Paul writes 1 Corinthians from Ephesus.
- ❖ **60-61** - Paul writes letter to the Ephesians.
- ❖ **61-63** - Paul's two-year imprisonment in Rome.
- ❖ **62** - Timothy receives his first letter from Paul.
- ❖ **65** - Paul assigns Timothy to the congregation in Ephesus.
- ❖ **67** - Timothy receives second letter from Paul.
- ❖ **67-68?** - Paul's death in Rome. Peter's would happen around the same year.
- ❖ **110** - Ignatius of Antioch sends one of his seven letters to the church at Ephesus.





### **The Author: Paul**

The author of this epistle is Paul, originally known as Saul of Tarsus. Trained at the feet of Gamaliel, an eminent teacher in Jerusalem, Saul was a Pharisee and an avowed enemy of Christianity (**Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2,13-14,19-21**). In his zeal for traditional Judaism he persecuted Christians in Jerusalem and even in outlying regions. In the course of a raid on Christians in Damascus, Saul was confronted in blinding light by the risen Christ, who demanded of him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (**Acts 9:4**). He was converted and baptized and then immediately began teaching and proving that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior (**Acts 9:17-22**). In approximately 25 years of ministry, Paul would write nearly half of all the New Testament books of the Bible and bring the Gospel to countless people and suffer greatly to do so. (**2 Corinthians 11:22-33**)

**Paul certainly makes for an unlikely evangelist. List some people that, knowing their background, you consider them unlikely evangelists.**

## Mission Work in Ephesus

Ephesus was the most important city in western Asia Minor (now Turkey). It had a harbor that at that time opened into the Cayster River, which in turn emptied into the Aegean Sea. Because it was also at an intersection of major trade routes, Ephesus became a commercial center. It boasted a pagan temple dedicated to the Roman goddess Diana (her Greek version is Artemis). Paul made Ephesus a center for evangelism for about three years, and the church there apparently flourished for some time, but later needed the warning of **Revelation 2:1-7**.

**Read Acts 19:1-20:1,16-38. Describe Paul's mission work in Ephesus.**



## Outline of Ephesians

The letter divides neatly into two sections. The first three chapters deal with the gracious plan of salvation that God conceived already in eternity, implemented in time, and which will reach its completion on judgment day, when God takes his believers to himself for an eternity of bliss in heaven. The last three chapters outline the Christian's response to God's grace and enjoy a life of love and service to God and our neighbor.

- I. Greeting (**1:1,2**)
- II. God's eternal plan of salvation (**1:3–3:21**)
  - A. A plan devised by the triune God from eternity (**1:3–23**)
    1. The Father's gracious purpose (**1:3–6**)
    2. The Father's plan accomplished by the Son's work (**1:7–12**)
    3. The Father's plan sealed by the Holy Spirit (**1:13,14**)

*Prayer that God enlighten the Ephesians to see his gracious power (**1:15–23**)*

- B. God's eternal plan of salvation was carried out in time (**2:1–22**)
  1. Both Jews and Gentiles are saved by grace (**2:1–10**)
  2. Jews and Gentiles are united into one church (**2:11–22**)
- C. God's eternal plan of salvation was preached to Gentiles by Paul (**3:1–21**)
  1. The "mystery" of God's grace revealed (**3:1–6**)
  2. The mystery proclaimed by Paul (**3:7–13**)

*Prayer that God enable the Ephesians to comprehend the love of Christ (**3:14–21**)*

- III. The blessed effects of God's saving grace (**4:1–6:20**)
  - A. A life of holiness (**4:1–6:9**)
    1. Holiness is to show itself in unity among believers (**4:1–13**)
    2. Holiness is to show itself in speaking the truth in love (**4:14–16**)
    3. Holiness is to show itself in living a pure life (**4:17–5:20**)
    4. Holiness is to show itself in assuming responsibilities (**5:21–6:9**)
  - B. Courage to contend against evil, wearing God's armor (**6:10–20**)
- IV. Final greetings (**6:21–24**)



### 1:1-2 The Greeting

In ancient letters it was customary to begin by identifying yourself and then your audience before greeting them.

How does Paul identify himself? What's the implication for the rest of the letter based on his identification presented?

How does Paul identify his audience? What does this identification tell you about them?

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (**verse 2**) "Grace" was a standard Greek way of greeting while "Peace" was a standard Hebrew or Jewish way of greeting. What spiritual dynamic is Paul expressing by using this greeting?

What are some ways that we talk in our church to make sure that our worship is designed not just for Lutherans?



### 1:3-14 God's Eternal Plan

Right out of the gate, we have one of the hardest to understand teachings of the Bible: the doctrine of "election," which can also be called "predestination." Using these verses, write a definition of this biblical teaching.

How do you use the doctrine of election/predestination in everyday life? How do you not?

Define "redemption" (**verse 7**). What pictures does that word invoke?

Have you ever thought about what it would cost to rectify something, to actually pay for the damages incurred and make restoration? It's easier to think of that when you have to pay for a broken window or a smashed car, but what about the intangible. What does it cost to restore trust after you have lied to someone? What does it cost to restore intimacy with your spouse after you have had an affair?

#### **Run-On**

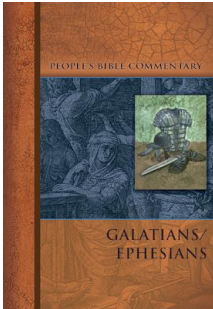
*Verses 3-14 are actually one long sentence in its original language of Greek. We don't like that too much in English, but you can get away with it in Greek.*

#### **Adoption to Sonship**

*In the Greco-Roman world, only sons could inherit. Some men ignored their natural children and declared an adopted son as heir. To be adopted by God is to be reborn into His family, made heirs of His kingdom. This happens in Baptism, when we – both male and female - are all made "sons" of God through His Son, Jesus.*



## PEOPLE'S BIBLE COMMENTARY: The Mystery



The “mystery” of God’s will shall be treated more fully later in this letter (**3:2–13**). Suffice it at this stage to say that the mystery of God’s will is almost synonymous with God’s plan of salvation, that is, his will to save sinners. God’s plan is not mysterious in the sense that it mystifies people or is incomprehensible to them. It is

a mystery only in the sense that people cannot come to understand it by themselves. God has to explain it to them and lead them to know it and accept it. And that he does, of course, in the gospel that proclaims his grace in Christ.

Who were the “first to put our hope in Christ”? (**verse 12**). Does their being first change what happens in the doctrine of election?

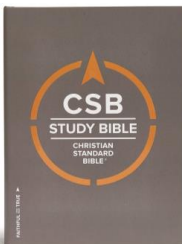
### **All Wisdom**

*Many ancient religions and philosophies, such as Gnosticism, promised special knowledge (**4:14; Colossian 2:16–23**), but Paul taught that true wisdom is found in Christ (cf **Matthew 13:54; 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30; Colossians 2:3**).*

### **Seal**

*A seal marked ownership. The word was used for a wax seal on a scroll; also for a brand on an animal or a tattoo on a slave or soldier. In the Old Testament, God sealed Cain to protect him, and circumcision sealed the Israelites as God’s people. God’s seal marks all those in heaven. A seal leaves its image; through Baptism, the promised Spirit makes us His dwelling.*

## CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE STUDY BIBLE: Predestination



Προορίζω (proorizō = predestine, predetermine) first appears in Greek literature in the writings of Paul, who may have coined the term. In the New Testament, this verb consistently refers to God’s predetermined plan to culminate salvation history in the person of Jesus Christ. For this reason, God the Father is always the subject of this verb in the New Testament. The early church saw Jesus’s sufferings as the predetermined plan of God in accordance with Old Testament Scriptures. The whole of the Christian salvation experience has been predestined by God. Christians have received both their calling and adoption into the rights of Christian sonship because of God’s loving predetermination (**Romans 8:30**). God has predetermined people to be ultimately conformed to the image of his Son Jesus (**Romans 8:29**). Finally, God predetermined before the ages his mysterious plan of salvation (**1 Corinthians 2:7**).

## 1:15-23 A Prayer for Enlightenment

Thinking about how the saints in Ephesus were chosen just like he was, Paul expresses his continued prayer for them. Using this prayer as a template for own, develop a prayer for your brothers and sisters in Christ at this church. What should it include?

### *Eyes of Your Heart*

*The heart in biblical usage is the seat and organ not only of feeling, as with us, but of the whole inner life of men, including will and mind: "to say in one's heart" means "to think."*

What does it mean that Christ is seated at the Father's right hand in the heavenly realms? How does this affect us?



## 2:1-10 God's Eternal Plan of Salvation Carried Out in Time

Using **verses 1-3**, draw (or describe or pick) a portrait of your spiritual nature prior to becoming a Christian.



Who is the ruler of the kingdom of the air? (**verse 2**) (c.f. **Chapter 6 verse 12**)

How are we changed from our natural spiritual state?

How are we saved? What are we saved from?

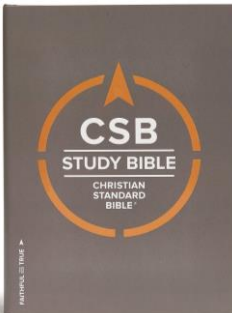
Where do good works play into our salvation, our going from spiritual death to spiritual life?

***Raised up with Christ  
and seated with him  
in the heavenly realms***

*Paul sketches the whole cycle of the Christian's life: past, present, and future. In the past the Ephesians - and Paul too - were spiritually dead, as shown by the Ephesians' evil deeds and Paul's evil thoughts and desires. But now, having been brought to faith in Christ, they are spiritually alive.*

*That opens up grand new possibilities. In a manner of speaking, Christians already have everything. Even now, in their lives of faith, they are as good as in heaven with Christ.*

**CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE STUDY BIBLE: Key Terms**



**Kindness** = God's loving tender action.

**Grace** = God's free favor toward ill-deserving people.

**Faith** = the instrument that receives or takes hold what God puts in our hand.

**Saved** = equated with new life, forgiveness of sins, deliverance from the plight described in **verses 1-3**, liberation, and resurrection.



# EPHESIANS

## 2:11-22 United into One Church

What specifically divided the Gentiles (people with non-Jewish ancestry) from the Jews?  
(verses 11-13)

Is there anything like this that divides in our church? In other words, do we have any religious racism or classism present here?

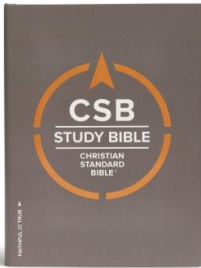
How was this divide fixed?



### **Cornerstone**

*A cornerstone establishes the direction of two walls and anchors them together.*

## CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE STUDY BIBLE: Dividing Wall



The new humanity is greater than the former humanity; God has torn down the dividing wall of hostility and removed the hatred forever. By “dividing wall” Paul likely had in mind the area in the Jerusalem temple that separated the court of the Gentiles from the temple. The temple was constructed on an elevated platform. Around it was the court of priests. East of this was the court of Israel. Farther east was the court of women. These three courts were all on the same elevation as the temple. From here a walled platform was five steps away. Fourteen steps away was another wall, which was the outer court of the Gentiles. There was an inscription on this wall warning Gentiles of their ensuing death if they entered the enclosure around the temple. In Christ this dividing wall was broken down, thus banishing the specific commandments that separated Jews from Gentiles because Gentiles did not observe the Jewish law. The burden of the commandments was taken away at the cross in our Lord’s crucified body.



Someone coming to our church feels like they don’t belong, that they don’t connect with anyone, or that no one is like them. How do we minister to them?



## **I, Paul, the Prisoner of Christ Jesus for the Sake of You Gentiles**

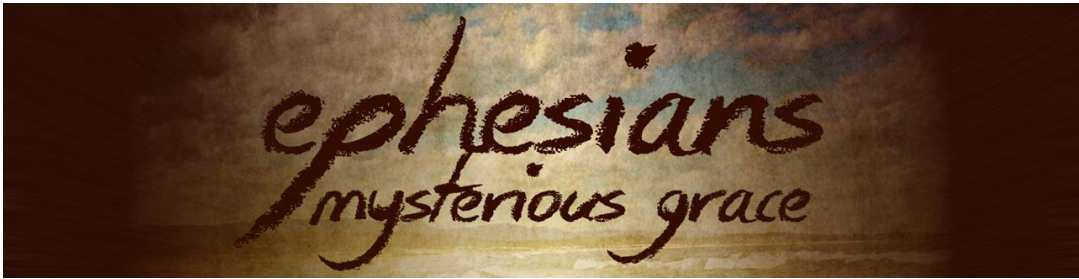
After returning from his third missionary journey, Paul went up to Jerusalem in AD 58. There he fell under the wrath of orthodox Jews who thought he had brought Gentiles into the temple (**Acts 21:17-36**).

Rescued from the Jewish mob by Roman soldiers, Paul found himself in the clutches of the Roman legal system. For two years he languished in prison in the provincial capital of Caesarea, where a corrupt Roman governor held him, hoping for a bribe (**Acts 24:26-27**).

In frustration, Paul appealed his case to the high court in Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire (**Acts 25:1-12, particularly 9-12**).

Although shipwrecked on the way to Rome (**Acts 27**), the apostle eventually arrived there safely. While under house arrest and awaiting trial, Paul was able to carry on a limited ministry to people who came to him.

As part of his ministry he also corresponded with congregations, and four of his "captivity letters" are included in the New Testament: Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians.



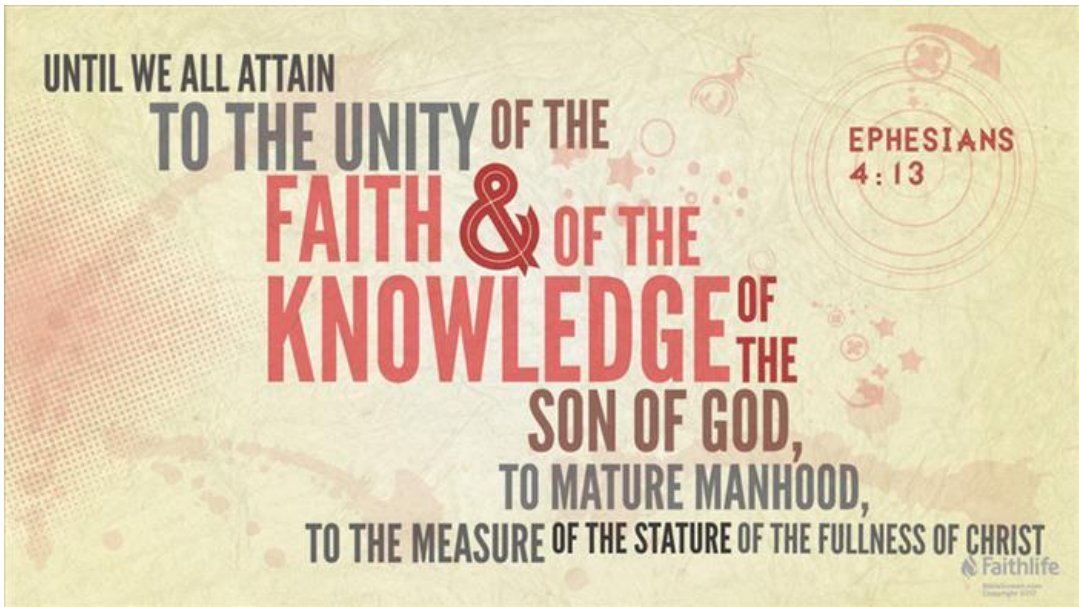
### **3:1-21 The Mystery of God's Grace Revealed by Paul**

What is the mystery? How is it a mystery? Where in the Old Testament was this mystery taught?

Read **1 Corinthians 15:9-10**. Even though most Christians today consider Paul one of, if not, the greatest missionary, why did he consider himself the least of the apostles?

Apply Paul's prayer to your life by changing the pronouns from second person (you) to first person (me, I). It would read something like this:

*I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen me with power through his Spirit in my inner being, so that Christ may dwell in my heart through faith. And I pray that, being rooted and established in love, I may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that I may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all I ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within me, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*



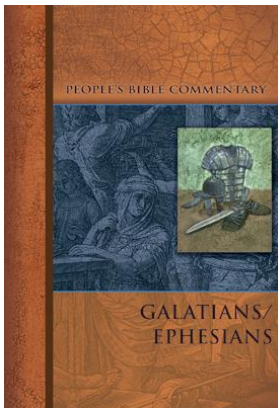
#### **4:1-16 Unity Among Believers**

Paint a portrait of (or draw or describe) what the Christian living a life worthy of the calling you have received looks like. To ask it differently, what do I need to work on in my Christian walk of life?

What is Paul's point in quoting **Psalm 68:18** in **verse 8**?



## PEOPLE'S BIBLE COMMENTARY: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, & Teachers



Some general distinctions can be made on the basis of examining the roots of the Greek words used. An “apostle” is someone sent out or commissioned. New Testament usage suggests that a “prophet” was not necessarily a person who foretold the future but one who brought God’s message to others, be that a message about the past, present, or future. “Evangelists” are people who share the gospel (from *euangelion*, which we translate “gospel”). An attempt is also made to group the terms. Apostles, prophets, and evangelists are understood to be traveling ministers, whereas pastors and teachers are assumed to serve in one specific location. Perhaps that is true. It is possible that the specific descriptions of the offices Paul lists do not conform exactly to what we have today.

How we are tossed back and forth by the waves or blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming? (**verse 14**)



### **4:17-5:20 Living a Truth-Filled Life**

"I insist on it in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking." (**chapter 4 verse 17**) What living and thinking "as the Gentiles do" are prominent in our culture and society? Why does godly living insist against it?

What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit of God (**chapter 4 verse 30**)? How might we be guilty of doing that?

What does the portrait of the new self, faithful Christian living, look like? How do all these actions build up the Church, the body of Christ? Which of these directives of the new self in Christ will I ask God to help me with?

In **chapter 5 verses 3-5** we get a lot of negative commands (directing people what *not* to do). Take these commands and state them positively (directing people what to do) when it comes to God's gift of sex and sexuality.

How can you find out what pleases the Lord? (**chapter 5 verse 10**)

In **chapter 5 verse 11**, we are told to expose the fruitless deeds of darkness. What does that mean and how are we supposed to do that?

In light of this section, what are some way that you can make the most of every opportunity? (**chapter 5 verse 16**)

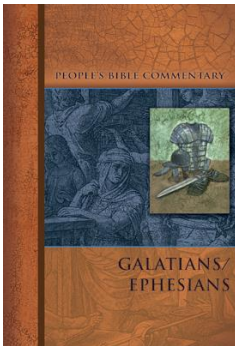
Thinking of **chapter 5 verses 19-20**, how are we to speak with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs? Maybe ask yourself the question this way: what hymns or psalms find their way into your everyday speaking?



## 5:21-6:9 God's Blueprint for Households

Using this section of the Bible, write a definition for "submit."

### PEOPLE'S BIBLE COMMENTARY: Submit



In English it is hard to reflect the more neutral tone of the Greek verb we translate as "submit." All our English verbs tend to convey some negative connotations. The root meaning of the Greek verb means simply "to rank people or things in order under some specific pattern." It does not imply inferiority or lesser value, as our English verbs too easily suggest. To "be subordinate" might come closest to reflecting the Greek. All comparisons limp, but a situation from the sports world can perhaps bring us a step closer to grasping the meaning of "submit." Take the case of a pitcher and catcher on a baseball team. Both are on the same side and have the same objective; both want to make their contribution to winning the game. But the things they do are quite different! Usually it's the catcher who decides what pitch should be thrown. The pitcher submits to that decision. That doesn't mean he can't ever shake off a pitch or that there might not be an occasional conference at the mound, but in general, the catcher calls the pitches. Does that mean the catcher is better than the pitcher? Is the pitcher inferior because he submits to the catcher's selection of pitches? Not at all! That's simply the way things work best. They both recognize that each can't be doing his own thing if they want to win the ball game. Somebody has to decide whether a fastball or a change-up is more likely to strike Casey out. It's a matter of assigned roles, a designated order of things. That's the essence of team play.

Marriage is certainly a team project. The God of order who instituted it has designated the manner in which it will be most harmonious and function with the greatest blessing. In his wisdom he has delegated headship, or the leadership role, to the husband. Submission on the wife's part is simply acknowledging that God-given role relationship.



Just like you consult the car manufacturer's owner's manual to know the best way to operate the vehicle they made, so also we consult the one who created marriage to know the best way to operate within a marriage. What is God's blueprint for husbands and wives? Are these roles and responsibilities conditional in a marriage? Why or why not?

What blessings are there for a wife in submitting to her husband as the Church submits to Christ?

What blessings are there for a husband in loving his wife as Christ loved the church?





## Marriage Gems

The following are precious and compact statements regarding aspects of a godly marriage.

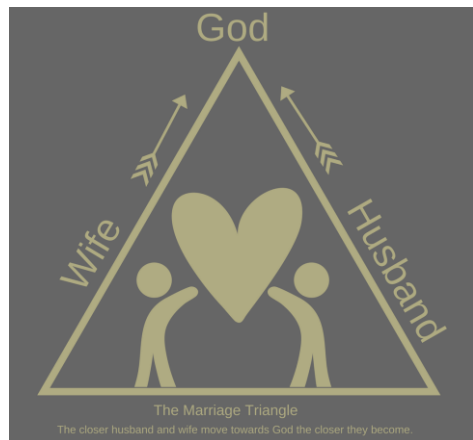
The best marriage is where both husband and wife are dedicating their lives in serving God and making him their priority. When they put God first, they will grow closer together as they grow closer to God.

Marriage is giving 100% to the other person and expecting nothing in return.

Husbands, you are not told to rule your wife, but love her.

Commitment is the essential bond of marriage.

If we say that the husband is the “head” in a marriage, then we may say the wife is the “heart.” Is one more important? No, both heart and head are necessary for life.



Husbands, strive every day to view and treat your wife as wearing the white robe of her baptism wedding gown.

What marriage gems of a godly marriage would you add?



### **Christian Worship: The Marriage Rite**

Dear friends: When God in love created the world, he made man and woman in his own image and bonded them together in marriage. Through this blessed union of husband and wife, God established the family, provided for the physical and spiritual welfare of children, and fostered the peace and stability of society.

God intended marriage to bring loving companionship to the people of his world. But because of sin, the joy of marriage was soon overcast with sorrow, and the harmony of family life was shattered by strife. Out of love God sent his Son Jesus to die on the cross to take away the sins of all people. Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness and is enabled by the Holy Spirit to live in peace and joy.

God's love for you is boundless. He commands you, in response to his love, to love each other. Love is forgiving and enduring. Love shows itself in truth and faithfulness, in thoughtfulness and understanding, in patience and kindness. Marriage furnishes a unique opportunity to put this love into practice.

The pattern for Christian marriage is the intimate union of Christ and his Church, which the apostle Paul depicts in Ephesians 5. After urging believers to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ," he makes this application for Christian spouses: "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church . . . Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself for her." It is reverence for Christ on the part of husband and wife that lays the foundation for Christian marriage.



## MARRIAGE PROMISES

M: **(to the groom):** \_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife? Will you be guided by the counsel and direction God has given in his Word and love your wife as Christ loved the Church? Will you be faithful to her, cherish her, support her, and help her in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I will."

G: **I will.**

M: **(to the bride):** \_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband? Will you be guided by the counsel and direction God has given in his Word and submit to your husband as the Church submits to Christ? Will you be faithful to him, cherish him, support him, and help him in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I will."

B: **I will.**

M: Join your right hands and make your promises to each other:

*The groom and bride will say in turn:*

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, / in the presence of God and these witnesses, / take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband. / I promise to be faithful to you / as long as we both shall live.**

## EXCHANGE OF RINGS

M: Exchange rings as a symbol of the lifelong commitment and abiding love which you as husband and wife have promised each other.

*The groom and bride will say in turn:*

**\_\_\_\_\_, receive this ring / as a symbol of my love and faithfulness.**



## **Law and Gospel Parenting**

The joy of parenting brings with it many fears and questions. Each generation seems to face ever-increasing challenges for raising children in a world distorted by sin. Books on parenting offer a variety of how-tos on the subject. But one almost needs a how-to book to choose the right how-to book, some of which are nearly one thousand pages long! Isn't there something simpler?

At the risk of oversimplifying a complex issue - yes! There is something simpler. The best way for a Christian to parent a child is to remember that he or she is a child: God's child. The Fatherhood of God and His Law-and-Gospel ways with His children will motivate and guide them to be better parents.

### **Children of God**

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are" (**1 John 3:1**). Parenting begins with parents remembering that they live in God's kingdom ruled by God's lavish love in Christ. The Gospel is the basis for parenting, not some how-to book with a list of rules. God's undeserved love in Christ reminds parents that having a child is not a right but a blessing. Parents do not merely produce children (as an industry produces a product). They are entrusted with a child as a gift from God. All parenting flows from this gift of the heavenly Father.

The Gospel also becomes the goal of parenting. Parents can feel proud of their children's accomplishments in sports or academics. The ultimate goal is to bring their children to Jesus

and have the Gospel become the basis of their life. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (**Ephesians 6:4**). Christian parents bring their children to Jesus in the waters of Holy Baptism. They bring their children to Jesus by instructing them in God's Word and modeling the Lord's ways (Law and Gospel) in the home. The ultimate goal of Christian parents is to see their children in heaven, not the "Hall of Fame."

## **The Law Still Applies**

Life begins at conception, and so does sinfulness (**Psalms 51:5**). Parents need to use the Law to point out sin and curb sinful behavior. Boundaries and limits protect children and give them the security that someone is in charge. Love uses the Law to train and discipline. "This is for your own good" may not make sense to a four-year-old, and "You'll thank me when you're older" makes teenage eyes roll, yet such discipline reflects how our Father disciplines us.

My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives.... All discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (**Hebrews 12:5-6, 11**)

Children need clear rules and consistent discipline appropriate to their sin. They need parents who follow through on the consequences. Scripture says, "[God] disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness" (**Hebrews 12:10**). God's ultimate goal for His children is that they would be with Him in heaven someday. God works in and through our mistakes and the unpleasant results they bring. He does so for our ultimate good. Parents are working for their child's ultimate good when they apply godly discipline.

## **Applying Law and Gospel as Parents**

Law and Gospel help parents discern what to do in a discipline situation. One of the principles of Law and Gospel is that the Law is used with unrepentant sinners and the Gospel is used with repentant sinners. Let's take spilling milk as an example. Most of the time, spilling milk is simply an accident. No violation of rules is involved. There is no need for the accusation of the Law: "Look what you have done!" What may be needed is some loving reassurance: "It's okay. Accidents happen." On the other hand, if Joey spills the milk while attempting to throw a dinner roll at Suzie, an infraction has been committed! Then the Law is needed! Joey must be called to account for his actions. However, when Joey confesses his guilt and expresses genuine sorrow, there is no need for further accusation. There may be consequences to his

actions, like apologizing to his sister and helping clean up, but the Gospel of Christ's forgiveness can now be applied.

Godly discipline comes about when Law and Gospel are rightly and faithfully applied. Encourage your children to say "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you" to one another. (Do not settle for expressions like "That's okay," "No big deal," or "Whatever.")

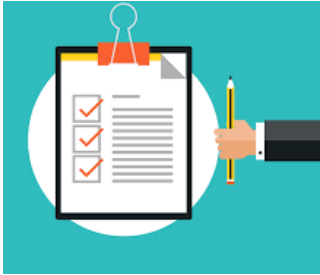
### **Back to the Basics**

How-to books are not enough. Certainly consult them and also seek the counsel of experienced parents. But real help for parenting comes from understanding the Law and Gospel of God's Word. Parenting does not consist of constant screaming and yelling; nor does it avoid all conflict for the sake of peace. Return to the Gospel daily. Remember how God has lavished His love upon you and made you His child. Remember that your child is a gift from Him. Remember how He disciplines you in love. He desires, above all else, that you be with Him in heaven someday. Instruct your children in the ways of the Lord. Discipline them in love, and do not shy away from using the Law when it is needed to set limits and boundaries and to convict of wrongdoing. Be always ready and generous with the Gospel! Teach Christ's forgiveness by forgiving your children. Teach Christ's forgiveness by admitting your mistakes and asking your children to forgive you.

Finally, cling to the Gospel for your own sake. Mistakes you make in parenting, things you should not have done, things you should have done better, a child who has gone astray—none of these separate you from God's love in Christ Jesus. You are a parent, but you are also a child, a child of God. And the heavenly Father never forsakes His children.

In considering **chapter 6 verse 4**, how might a father exasperate his child?

## Impact of the Father on Religious Upbringing

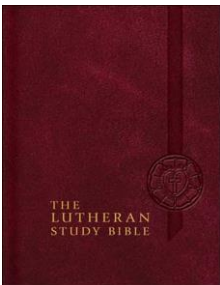


According to data collected by Promise Keepers and Baptist Press, if a father does not go to church, even if his wife does, only 1 child in 50 will become a regular worshiper. If a father does go regularly, regardless of what the mother does, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will attend church as adults. If a father attends church irregularly, between half and two-thirds of their kids will attend church with some regularity as adults. The same statistics hold true for

Bible study attendance. Maybe the most telling statistic is that when the father is the first convert to Christianity within a family, there is a 93% probability that everyone else in the household will follow.

There was a significant portion of the population in Ephesus who were slaves. Because of this, there were probably many slaves who were also a part of the Ephesian congregation. Assuming that you are not a slave or slave owner, what principles from **chapter 6 verses 5-9** can we still apply into our lives as Christians?

## THE LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE: Blueprints for the Christian Life

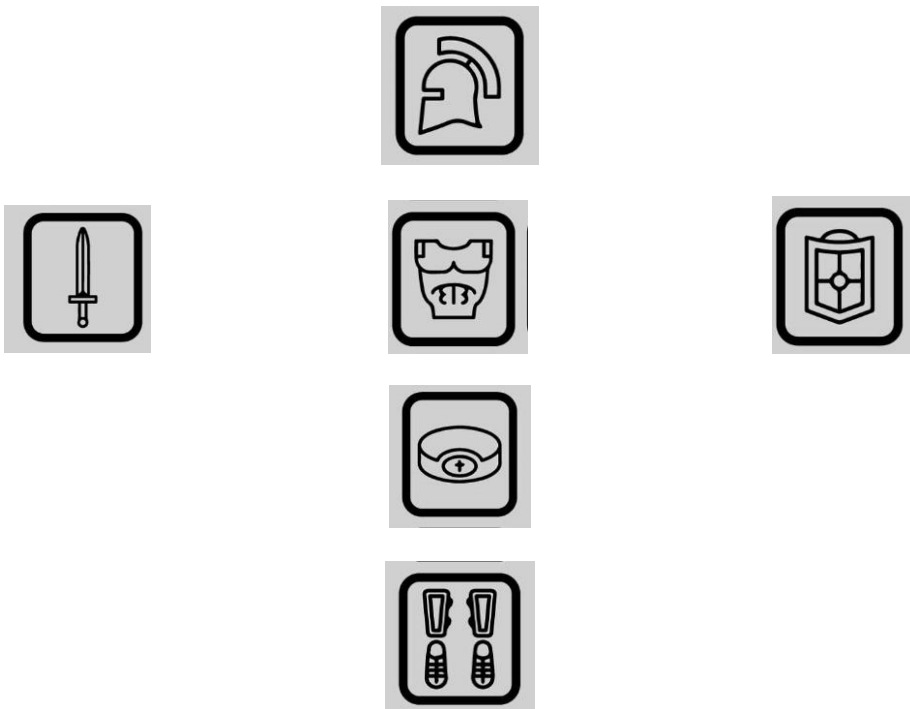


Paul's description of the Christian life is not exhaustive, but gives common examples of vocations, or callings, in life. Today, God calls us to serve Him and other people selflessly, lovingly, and conscious of our relationship to Christ. We should examine our lives and our callings. The Lord will forgive our shortcomings and strengthen us to be Christlike. • Lord, no matter how I serve in my family or society, I am Your child and servant through Your Holy Child, Jesus. Grant that I fulfill my calling before You. Amen.



### 6:10-24 Contending Against Evil: Weapons of Christian Warfare

The Christian life here on earth is one of constant spiritual battle. For this reason, Christians on earth are considered the Church Militant. We are the army of God. As such, we need to be ready for battle. What is the Armor of God? How does each piece work? How can you "suit up"?



## 537

## Onward, Christian Soldiers



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,  
 2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;  
 3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,  
 4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful; Join the hap - py throng,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.  
 Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.  
 But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.  
 Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;  
 We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,  
 Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;  
 Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ the King;



For - ward in - to bat - tle See his ban - ners go!  
 One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.  
 We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.  
 This through count - less a - ges Saints and an - gels sing.

*Refrain*

On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,



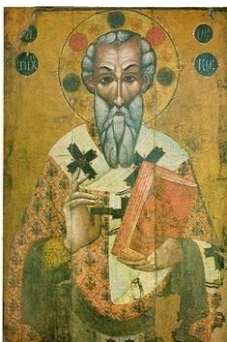
With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, abr., alt.

Tune: ST. GERTRUDE (65 65 D with Refrain) Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900.

Reflecting on **verses 18-20**, what is good, God-pleasing content for our prayers?

### PEOPLE'S BIBLE COMMENTARY: Who is Tychicus?



We wish we knew more about Tychicus, who earns the high praise of being “the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord.” He is mentioned in four other New Testament passages. Three of them are only passing references (**Acts 20:4**; **2 Timothy 4:12**; **Titus 3:12**). The fourth, **Colossians 4:7-9**, deserves a little closer look. There the apostle writes: “Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.” The first thing that strikes us here is the marked similarity to the Ephesian passage. That, of course, is true of many passages in Colossians. The specific point of overlap here is that Tychicus is to explain Paul’s circumstances to both the Ephesians and the Colossians.

Note also another interesting fact. In Colossians, Onesimus is said to be accompanying Tychicus. Recall our earlier discussion of Onesimus, the runaway slave turned Christian whom Paul was sending back to his Christian master, Philemon. Paul says of Onesimus that he is “one of you [Colossians].”

Thus the following scenario emerges: The main “transaction” at this point is Paul’s sending Onesimus back to his master, Philemon, who lives in Colosse. Tychicus is carrying a cover letter (our New Testament *Philemon*) to smooth the delicate matter of a repentant Onesimus being received back into the household of Philemon. This matter may also have repercussions in the local congregation in Colosse, so Paul sends the congregation a letter too, our New Testament *Colossians*. Incidentally, note the large section on slaves in that letter’s table of duties (**Colossians 3:22-25**). Tychicus is carrying both letters to the city of Colosse. To get there, he will have to travel right through Ephesus. Paul seems to be taking the opportunity to write a parallel letter to his beloved Ephesians, among whom he had worked for three years (**Acts 20:31**). Thus Tychicus, in fact, seems to be carrying three letters, *Ephesians*, *Colossians*, and *Philemon*, as he escorts Onesimus back home to Colosse.

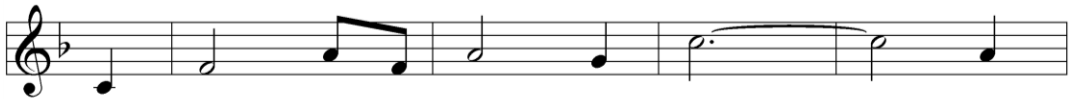


What peace does the book of *Ephesians* leave us with? What love with faith? What grace?

## 379      **Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound**



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—  
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares  
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,



That saved a wretch like me! I  
His Word my hope se - cures. He  
I have al - read - y come; 'Tis  
Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've

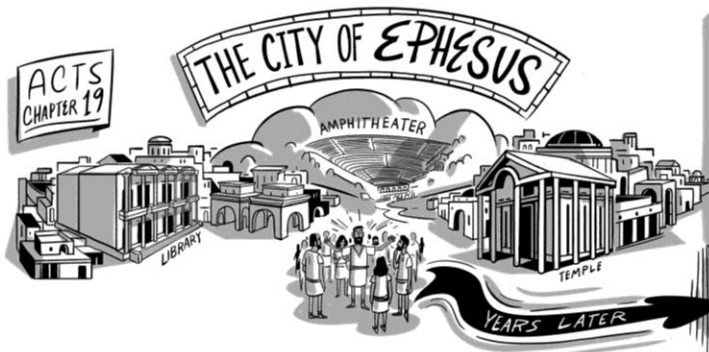


once was lost but now am found,  
will my shield and por - tion be  
grace has brought me safe thus far,  
no less days to sing God's praise



Was blind but now I see.  
As long as life en - dures.  
And grace will lead me home.  
Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4.  
Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.



# 1-3 THE GOSPEL STORY

"THE

1:3-14  
OPENING POEM

PRaise GOD FOR  
WHAT HE'S DONE  
**IN CHRIST**

ACTS  
CHAPTER 2

1:15-23 PRAYER



EXPERIENCE  
THE POWER  
THAT RAISED JESUS  
FROM THE DEAD

1:10 UNITY OF EVERYTHING UNDER THE MESSIAH

2:1-10 GOD'S GRACE...

2:11-22 ...A NEW, MULTI-ETHNIC FAMILY



"A NEW, UNIFIED HUMANITY THAT LIVES IN  
**PEACE**" (2:19)



MAY YOU BE STRENGTHENED  
BY GOD'S SPIRIT & GRASP  
THE LOVE OF CHRIST

JES LETTER TO THE

# ESAIANS

PAUL SUMMARIZES  
THE GOSPEL STORY  
& HOW IT SHOULD RESHAPE EVERY PART OF  
OUR STORY.

BEFORE

## 4-6 OUR STORY

1:1-16



UNITY DOES NOT = UNIFORMITY

**one SPIRIT, MANY GIFTS**

- APOSTLE
- PASTOR
- PROPHET
- TEACHER
- EVANGELIST

TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH:



1:17-6:9

OLD



NEW



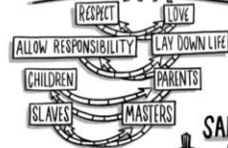
TAKE OFF	PUT ON
LIES	TRUTH
ANGER	PEACE
THEFT	GENEROSITY
GOSSIP	ENCOURAGE
REVENGE	FORGIVENESS
PROMISCUITY	SELF-CONTROL
DRUNK	GODS SPIRIT

SIGNS of the SPIRIT

- 1 SINGING TOGETHER
- 2 SINGING ALONE
- 3 BEING THANKFUL
- 4 ELEVATING OTHERS

CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLD

CHURCH = JESUS



SALVATION

6:10-21 THE ARMOR OF GOD

# SPIRITUAL EVIL



created by the Bible Project



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