

BOOK OF EPHESIANS SYLLABUS

TCT – SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE

This 13-part study of the Book of Ephesians is designed to teach the primary concepts Paul presented to the Ephesian Church. Emphasis is upon what lay-people need to know about our responsibility as Christians in a dark world and what Paul intended for the church to be as the body of Christ.

OUTLINE:

Session 1 – Ephesians 1:1-14	WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST
Session 2 – Ephesians 1:15-23	SPIRITUAL POWER IN HEAVENLY PLACES
Session 3 – Ephesians 2:1-10	GOD’S POWER IS GRACE
Session 4 – Ephesians 2:11-22	BODY OF CHRIST IS A TEMPLE
Session 5 – Ephesians 3:1-12	MYSTERY OF CHRIST REVEALED
Session 6 – Ephesians 3:13-21	PAUL’S PRAYER FOR POWER
Session 7 – Ephesians 4:1-16	MINISTRY GIFTS IN THE BODY
Session 8 – Ephesians 4:17-32	PUT OFF THE OLD, PUT ON THE NEW
Session 9 – Ephesians 5:1-21	ACTING LIKE A CHRISTIAN
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SESSION 1
WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST (EPHESIANS 1:1-14)

Intro: Introductions. Paul wrote this letter to saints at the City of Ephesus while he was imprisoned.

- v. 1-2. -He wrote this secondarily, to “the Faithful in Christ Jesus” = You!
-From Paul, an Apostle (sent one), while he was in Rome.
- v. 3 -Paul’s introduction. God has “blessed us” with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.
-Not talking of material blessings, but spiritual blessings.
-He lists them:
- v. 4 -“Chosen us” a) From the beginning of time.
b) His end goal: that we be holy & blameless “before Him”.
- v. 5 “Predestined us” a) Adoption of sons (daughters).
-Not so much in relationship, but of Position.
b) Adopted *to* Himself.
c) This is God’s pleasure = Grace.
- v. 6 “Made us Accepted” *in* the Beloved (Christ).
-Not just accepted us, but *made* us accepted (Redemption).
-You have been accepted, not rejected. Sin Separates.
- v. 7 “We have Redemption” a) Through *His* blood.
b) Forgiveness of sins.
c) Standard (measure used): “riches of His grace”.
- v. 8 “Abounded toward us” - Wisdom & Prudence (practical wisdom).
- vv. 9-10 Revelation: a) Revealed the Mystery of His Will.
b) Connection of earthly things & heavenly things. (Linking them).
c) “even in Him” – *He* is the connection we need.
- vv. 11-12 “We have obtained an Inheritance”
a) “Predestined” – means “to mark out” or “determine beforehand”.
b) God has initiated a plan (based on His foreknowledge) to develop us.
c) “who first trusted in Christ” – it is determined on my trust or acceptance.
- v. 13-14 “We are sealed”
a) Belief comes 1st, then the Holy Spirit’s sealing.
-“Promise” is the seal: You’re locked into God’s plan.
b) Not this protective bubble (Anita’s accident).
c) Holy Spirit is the earnest (down payment) until we obtain fullness of Redemption (Heaven).

SESSION 2
SPRITUAL POWER IN HEAVENLY PLACES (EPHESIANS 1:15-23)

Intro: v. 15a – “Wherefore” = Last week: Blessings that all Believers have in Christ...

vv. 15-16 -Two things make your pastor thankful:

- a) Your faith in Jesus Christ (Trusting in *His* leadership).
- b) Your love for the Brotherhood (Body Life).

-Paul’s response: a) Continual thanksgiving.

- b) He prays for them.

vv. 17-19 Paul’s prayers for the Saints:

- a) Wisdom & Revelation in knowledge of *Him* (Describe how that comes).

-“eyes” of your understanding being enlightened.

- b) To know 3 things:

- 1) The hope of *His* calling (v. 18)
- 2) The riches of the glory of *His* inheritance “in the saints” (v. 18).
- 3) The exceeding greatness of *His* power toward us who believe”

vv. 20-21 The same power released in Jesus:

- a) When He raised Him from the Dead.
- b) Set Him at His right hand.

-Far above all other authorities.

-v. 21: “also...which is to come” (Today)!

vv. 22-23 c) Put all things *under* His feet (Authority).

-Application: *He* is head over all things “to the church”.

-Define church: Gk: ecclesia = ‘called out assembly’.

-His Body: *We* are the fullness of Christ today.

SESSION 3
GOD'S POWER IS GRACE (EPHESIANS 2:1-10)

Intro: Eph. 2:1 –Spiritual authority in His church.

v. 1 –You were resurrected (a taste of that power that changes lives).

a) Dead in trespasses & sins (Offenses to God).

v. 2 – Review your past:

1) Walked the course of this world.

2) Prince of the power of the air (atmosphere of antichrist).

3) Same spirit that works in unsaved sinners today.

v. 3 – Further review of your old life:

1) Lusts of the flesh (thrills, fame, money).

2) Lusts of the mind (soul) (Body, Soul & Spirit).

3) Children of wrath...Everyone fits here (our nature).

vv. 4-5 – “But God” a) Rich in Mercy (His nature).

b) Great love for us (Agape love).

-He Resurrected us:

a) While we were still dead...a sinner. Didn't wait for you to clean up!

b) Grace is the standard = Unmerited favor.

v. 6 – This is present tense not future.

-We sit there *now*: This is our position in Christ!

-We sit *together* with Christ.

v. 7 – Purpose: In ages to come (eternity) He can show exceeding riches of His *grace*.

-God's pride is not His power or majesty, but His **grace**: Souls changed!

vv. 8-9 – Salvation is by *Grace*, not our performance.

-Jesus performed – We rest.

-No one can boast: “I've been baptized”. Where's Jesus in that?

v. 10 – We are *His workmanship* – Recreated...to do good works.

-God's destiny for you!

SESSION 4
THE BODY OF CHRIST A TEMPLE (EPHESIANS 2:11-22)

Intro: Eph. 2:10 – God’s power is grace toward us and in us.

vv. 11-12 – “Remember” where you came from.

- 1) Gentiles in the Flesh.
- 2) Uncircumcision.
- 3) Without Christ.
- 4) Aliens from Israel.
- 5) Strangers from the Covenants with God.
- 6) Had no Hope.
- 7) Without God in the World.

v. 13 – But *now* = From Far to near.
-By the Blood of Christ.

v. 14 – Veil was torn between us & God *AND* between Jews & Gentiles.
-Relate to denominations today.

v. 15 – “*In His flesh*” He tore down barriers = we come to Him *together*.

v. 16 – This describes the Body of Christ = all Believers from all races & backgrounds.

vv. 17-18 – Our access is through His Spirit to the Father.
-Not through the Church or Denomination.

v. 19 – Change – From “Stranger” to “fellow citizen” = This is the Kingdom.

vv. 20-22 – Analogy: The Church is like a Building.
-Foundation = Apostles & Prophets.
-Corner Stone = Jesus Christ.
-All pieces fitly framed together.
-Becomes a dwelling place for God (A Holy Temple).
-Likeness: to us a Habitation thru the Spirit.

SESSION 5
MYSTERY OF CHRIST REVEALED (EPHESIANS 3:1-12)

Intro: v. 1a – “For this cause”...now connects this “Building” of grace to the church.

v. 1 – “prisoner of Jesus Christ” for you Gentiles – Reinforcing that Gentiles are in Christ as well as Jews.

-‘I’ve stood up for you’. ‘I believe in you’.

vv. 2-4 – Dispensation of Grace – Parenthesis in God’s scheduled dealings with man.

-Mystery revealed by Revelation. How is it revealed?

-Understand my knowledge = To me by Revelation = to you by my instruction.

v. 5 – “other ages” – Old Covenant and before (Adam/Abraham).

-God reveals to Holy Apostles & Prophets by Spirit. Not to all, just messengers.

v. 6 – Mystery of Christ revealed: 1) Gentiles fellow Heirs.

2) Gentiles of same Body.

3) Gentiles partakers of His promises.

vv. 7-8 – God sent me to minister this word to Gentiles.

-Gift of Grace (God must put a compassion within us).

-Paul’s weakness: Less than the least of all saints (in the natural).

-Amazing Grace.

vv. 9-10 – Our burden: To make all men know this mystery = It’s a Fellowship (teamwork).

-End result: That powers in heavenly places become evident in His church today.

vv. 11-12 – This is God’s purpose all along: Purpose of Christ’s coming.

-We now have boldness & access with confidence “by faith in Christ”.

SESSION 6
PAUL'S PRAYER FOR POWER (EPHESIANS 3:13-21)

Intro: v. 13a – “Wherefore” = Because its my responsibility to spread the good news...

vv. 13-14 – Don't be discouraged because of my tribulation = The word must be spread one way or another.

-“I bow my knees” – I submit to His authority & His care.

v. 15 – We are a “family” = In heaven & in earth.

v. 16 – Paul's prayer:

- a) That you would be strengthened with might
- b) ...”by His Spirit in the inner man”.

v. 17a – Power: that Christ may dwell in you.

vv. 17b-19 – That...1) being rooted & grounded in love. Describe rooted & grounded.

2) to *comprehend* nature of God (v. 18).

3) to know the love of God (v. 19).

4) filled with the fullness of God.

vv. 20-21 – Doxology

-He is *able* to do *way* above all we ask *or* think.

-This power works *in us*.

-God is to be glorified in the church by Christ Jesus.

SESSION 7
MINISTRY GIFTS IN THE BODY (EPHESIANS 4:1-16)

Intro: v. 1 – “I, therefore” refers to the prayer of understanding in Chapter 3.

vv. 1-3 – Vocation = Your calling of being a messenger.

v. 2 – How to Walk Worthy:

- 1) Lowliness & Meekness – You are a Humble Servant.
- 2) Longsuffering – Patience. Wait on God and trust Him.
- 3) Forbearing one another in love – Forgive & don’t take up offenses.
- 4) Keep the unity of the Spirit (Jew & Gentile) in Bond of Peace.

vv. 4-6 – Seven Unities:

- 1) One Body (Jew & Gentile).
- 2) One Spirit
- 3) One Hope
- 4) One Lord
- 5) One faith
- 6) One baptism
- 7) One God and Father

v. 7 – Every one has a gift.

-According to measure of Christ’s gift of grace (Not all equal). And not according to your desires.

v. 8 – Scriptural support Psalm 68:18.

vv. 9-10 – A parenthesis explaining 1st part of Psalm 68:18.

- When Jesus died He descended into hell to rescue righteous dead. Savior.
- He took keys of death & hell away & *then* ascended into heaven. Power!

v. 11 – Five-Fold Ministry Gifts. a) Every move of God comes through one of these.

- b) These are ordinary people with unordinary call & anointing upon their lives.
- c) Might not like your gift, but you don’t get to choose. Receive the gift.

vv. 12-13 – Their purpose (v. 12) to mature the saints to do the work of ministry to build up the church.

-Equip the saints. Train them, motivate them, and bless them.

v. 14 – To grow beyond the crafty deceit of the world.

vv. 15-16 – Illustration of Church as a Body.

- a) Christ is the Head.
- b) Each part connects together.
- c) “According to the effective working of *every* part” = Break down hurts all.
- d) “Body grows *to* the upbuilding of itself in love”. Body strengthens itself.

SESSION 8
PUT OFF THE OLD, PUT ON THE NEW (EPHESIANS 4:17-32)

Intro: v. 17a – “This I say, *therefore...*” Ministry Gifts are for the growth of the Church.

vv. 17-19 – Don’t act like a Non-Believer:

- 1) Vanity of the Mind.
- 2) Understanding darkened.
- 3) Alienated from the life of God.
- 4) Blindness of the Heart.
- 5) Addicted to Lasciviousness (Sensuality).
- 6) Greediness.

vv. 20-21 – Christianity is different lifestyle.

-Condition: Provided you have heard the gospel.

vv. 22-24 – “Put off” old lifestyle. We have a responsibility.

-Recreated “after God” – In His image.

Holiness & Righteousness.

v. 25 – Examples of Practical Christianity:

1) Lying = Put it away = speak the truth.

-Reason: We are members of Same Body.

v. 26 2) Be angry but don’t sin.

-Resolve anger before the day is over.

v. 27 3) Don’t give place to Satan.

v. 28 4) Theft = Don’t. Get a job and earn money.

-Then give to others.

v. 29 5) Words – “corrupt communication” – Stop it.

-All words must be good and edifying.

-Minister grace when you’ve received grace.

v. 30 6) Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit (Must be possible).

-You are *sealed* – Soul is secure & He guides – Don’t offend Him.

v. 31 7) Don’t hurt others – You are a Restorer, not Destroyer.

v. 32 8) Positive Attitude = Be positive and Encourage.

-Treat others like God has treated you (Grace). Golden Rule.

SESSION 9
ACTING LIKE A CHRISTIAN (EPHESIANS 5:1-21)

Intro: Eph. 5:1a: “Be ye, therefore...” – Because we should “put on” the new man...

v. 1 – Be followers of God – as committed children follow their Dad.
-How do we do that?...

v. 2 – “walk in love” – follow Christ’s example of love
-Be a sacrifice for one another’s betterment.

vv. 3-4 – “fornication” = any sexual activity outside of the marriage covenant.
-You are a saint (sanctified Christian). “Never once...”

v. 5 – Kingdom of God is the assembly of “called out” Believers.
1) Get out of the world’s system!
2) Get out and assemble!

vv. 6-7 – These behaviors are what bring wrath of God upon Sinners.
-Get out of there – Be different.

v. 8 – Holy Spirit’s indwelling is the Light – Walk in it.

vv. 9-10 – Prove it – Put it to the test. Develop it. Become a Marksman.

vv. 11-12 – Reprove/Reject & ignore them. Don’t even repeat it.
-Stay positive & pure in your mind.

vv. 13-14 – Not a quote, but a paraphrase of Isaiah 60:1.
-Let your light shine & you wake up others. Lifestyle Evangelism.

vv. 15-17 – Discipline your behavior. Allow God to grow you.

v. 18 – Drunk (wine) v. Filled (Spirit). Flesh v. Spirit battle.

v. 19-21 – How to do that:
1) Speaking to yourselves (one another).
2) Singing, making melody in your heart (inner man).
3) Giving thanks always in everything (requires trust in God).
4) Submitting yourselves (trusting God’s people).

SESSION 10
MARRIAGE AS A PATTERN (EPHESIANS 5:22-33)

Intro: Eph 5:1-21 is Practical Christianity, now continued:

- vv. 22-24 – Not women submit to men!. There is order in marriage.
 - The head takes responsibility. *He* will stand before God someday.
 - Christ is the example of taking responsibility.
 - How should the Church submit in trust? That's how the wife should trust God in a marriage.

- vv. 25-27 – Analogy of a Wedding:
 - Bride on her Wedding Day (Adorned). Not one blemish!
 - Christ is working to remove blemishes from you & I because He wants us to look grand at the Wedding in Heaven.
 - Application: Husbands, love your wives like that! Die for her.

- vv. 28-29 – Husbands: Communicate love to your wife. Prove it! Make *her* feel loved. (Unconditionally).
 - If you want respect in this life, make your wife feel loved.

- v. 30 – Church is Body of Christ = *His* flesh & *His* bones.
 - We're in this together – be a team.

- v. 31 – Back to marriage: Couples *leave* their roots & form a new alliance.
 - Christianity is a New kinship, new alliance.
 - Leave the old lifestyle and put on the new Christlikeness.

- v. 32 – Mystery of the Church. Church is like a marriage; a new alliance.

- v. 33 – However, there is a practical application, as well:
 - Every man *must* love his wife.
 - Every woman *must* respect her husband (Meet needs in one another)
 - This is living out Christianity.

SESSION 11
CHRIST-LIKE RELATIONSHIPS (EPHESIANS 6:1-9)

Intro: Eph 6 – Continuation of Practical Christianity in Relationships.

- vv. 1-3 – **Children** must obey their parents. Parents are given as guides.
 - Same with Spiritual Children: Should listen to spiritual parents as Guides.
 - Scriptural support: 10 Commandments. 1st Commandment with a Promise attached.
 - Promise: Your days on earth will be increased.

- v. 4 – **Fathers:** Don't provoke (push) you children to anger.
 - How does God nurture you? Like a tyrant? No, like a patient Father.
 - Keep God before them in everything.

- v. 5 – **Slaves:** Obey your worldly masters.
 - Paul is not condoning slavery, but recognizing the culture in which they lived.
 - Applies to employees, as well.
 - “as unto Christ”.

- v. 6 – “eyeservice” – Not just when you're being watched.
 - Assume God has placed you here for a reason. Do it with gusto.

- v. 7 – “As unto the Lord” – Describe Lordship. Have you really surrendered?

- v. 8 – Law of Reciprocity. We reap what we sow in life.
 - “bond or free” – Your Condition is not your Position. Remember your Position.

- v. 9 – **Master:** Bosses are to be a team with laborers who work to increase *you*.
 - No respect of persons with God.

SESSION 12
THE ARMOR OF GOD (EPHESIANS 6:10-17)

Intro: Last: Practical Christianity in Relationships.

- v. 10 – Final Topic: Spirit-Filled Christians are in Spiritual Battles.
 - This is God’s purpose in saving us: To empower us to change the world.
 - Be strong “in the Lord” – not your education or finances or determination.

- v. 11 – Armor of God – Armor is defense. It protects you from attack.
 - Protects against Satan’s tactics.

- vv. 12-13 – Our Spiritual enemies cannot be seen.
 - Great defeat of American Christianity: We fight the wrong enemy.
 - v. 13 – “Wherefore” – Because of that...
 - “*Whole* Armor” – not just part of it.
 - “Take unto you” – You have a responsibility.
 - Only *you* can bring yourself down.
 - This Defensive Armor protects against Satan’s tactics.

Six pieces of Armor:

- v. 14a – **1. Truth:** Get ready with God’s truth. His Word.

- v. 14b – **2. Righteousness:** God’s Righteousness comes through Christ.
 - You must live it.

- v. 15 – **3. Gospel of Peace:** You have good news, not bad.
 - Be at peace with God and the World. War alienates.

- v. 16 – **4. Faith:** Faith is trust in God no matter what circumstances look like.
 - Faith puts out all the fires Satan starts.

- v. 17a – **5. Salvation:** Helmet protects your head, most important part.
 - Do you have confidence in your salvation? Invitation.

- v. 17b – **6. Word of God:** Sword of the Spirit. Only offensive weapon you can use.
 - Study this book.

SESSION 13
PRAYER FOR AMBASSADORS (EPHESIANS 6:18-24)

Intro: Last: Ephesians 6:10-17 – Spiritual Armor of God (Defensive)

- v. 18 – Spiritual prayer = when your spirit prays. From your spirit, not your soul.
-Baptism of the Holy Spirit with prayer language.
-Important to watch for answers
 -Answers usually come in form of open doors we must walk through.
 -Open doors are ‘coincidences’ set up by God. Watch for them!
- vv. 19-20 – Paul asks for their spiritual prayers.
-Not asking for protection, but boldness. He apparently was intimidated.
-And Wisdom: To communicate the mystery of the gospel. Abstract concept.
 -*How* does it change lives?
-Ambassadors are officially authorized representatives. They have authority.
 -*We* are Ambassadors for Christ.
- vv. 21-22 – Who is this Tychicus? Delivering this letter and giving a report.
-Tychicus is a nobody in whom Paul entrusted the Word of God.
-Who are you? A messenger of the Word of God.
-Comfort hearts!
- vv. 23-24 – Not a prayer, but an Ambassador’s Proclamation:
 1) Peace.
 2) Love.
 3) Grace = More grace toward others.

If time, Review.