

Ephesians

Wrap-Up
Ephesians 6:21-24

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of **DISCIPLE**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11

Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

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Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- Paul and Tychicus are exemplars of Christian virtue. From **Acts 20:17-38 (Paul)** and **Acts 20:3–5, Ephesians 6:21-22, Colossians 4:7-8 and 2 Timothy 4:9–12 (Tychicus)**, show how each was...

- **Loving**

Paul

Tychicus

- **Faithful**

Paul

Tychicus

- **Servant-hearted**

Paul

Tychicus

- **Encouraging**

Paul

Tychicus

- Lucian, a Greek philosopher who lived from about A.D. 120-200, said this of the early Christians: *"It is incredible to see the fervor with which the people help each other. They spare nothing. Their first legislator [ie, Jesus] has put it into their heads that they are all brethren."*

What examples have you **personally** witnessed which support Lucian's claim?

In what ways does TCC need to grow in this area? (Be specific—but *gracious!*)

Sermon Summary

We've come to the end of our study of Ephesians. All that is left to talk about are the authors' closing comments, but before we go there let's review what we've learned. Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians, which is located in modern day Turkey. Ephesus was a city of 250,000, and the famous temple of Artemis was located there. The Apostle Paul first visited Ephesus on his second missionary journey, and ministered there for three years. Later (ca. 62AD) Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians to address problems that were arising in the church. The theme of Ephesians is our responsibility to walk in accordance with our heavenly calling in Christ Jesus, and the book neatly divides into two sections: Our Wealth in Christ (chapters 1-3) and Our Walk in Christ (chapters 4-6). Three key words found in Ephesians are "sit, stand and walk". Because of our union with Christ, when Jesus died to sin, we died to sin and when he rose from the dead, so did we. Because he **sits** in triumph, so do we (2:6). We are not defeated sinners, but triumphant saints—therefore Paul implores us to **walk** in a manner worthy of the Lord (4:1) and to **stand** firm against the schemes of the devil (6:11).

The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on doctrine. Because we are "in Christ" we have every spiritual blessing: we were chosen for salvation, predestined for adoption, redeemed through Jesus' death, enlightened regarding the mystery of his will, we are made his inheritance, and given his Holy Spirit as a guarantee that he will complete this work he has begun! Before coming to faith in Christ we were spiritually dead, walked in Satan's ways, lived according to the lusts of our flesh and mind, and were under God's wrath. Before, we were separated from God and one another, but now "in Christ" we have been reconciled with God and each other. All barriers have been abolished. We are one people, one church, one family in Christ.

In chapters 4-6 Paul switches gears and moves from our wealth to our walk. We must walk in a manner worthy of our calling (4:1), put on the new self (4:24), let no unwholesome word proceed from our mouths (4:29), be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to each other (**just as** God in Christ forgave us, 4:32). We must walk in love just as Christ loved us (5:2), must not participate in dark deeds (5:11) but instead be filled with the Spirit (5:18). Wives must submit to their husbands, children to parents, slaves to masters (5:22; 6:1 & 5). Husbands must love their wives, fathers must not provoke their children to anger, and masters must treat their servants fairly (5:25; 6:1 & 9). We do all of these things in the power which God provides; with the commands comes the power (including power to stand against the devil; 6:10-11).

As he closes this letter, Paul wants his readers to know about his present circumstances as a prisoner so that they can pray for him to be comforted by his news (6:21-24). Here we are introduced to Paul's associate Tychicus. Paul calls him a beloved spiritual brother and faithful minister. Likely it was Tychicus who hand delivered this letter to the church in Ephesus. We first met him when he was traveling with Paul on his third missionary journey (Acts 20:4). Tychicus is mentioned several times in the New Testament (Colossians 4:7-8; Titus 3:12; and 2 Timothy 4:12). Tychicus was "a brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches" (2 Corinthians 8:18). He clearly was one of Paul's most faithful messengers. Paul had a special affection for the church of Ephesus and so he sent Tychicus "so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts" (6:22).

Paul's last correspondence with the Ephesian church had been both touching and disturbing (read Acts 20:17-38). Paul had faithfully and selflessly labored among the Ephesians, and through his letter and Tychicus visit, he hoped to teach and encourage them one last time. According to tradition, within two years of writing this letter Paul was beheaded in Rome. He gave his life that others might come to know the Christ who so radically changed his life. Paul opened and closed this letter by wishing his readers "grace and peace" (1:2 & 6:23-24), and no two words could summarize his message more succinctly. We were under God's wrath. We deserved nothing at God's hand but judgment for our trespasses and sins. Only grace could rescue us from what we deserved. Grace is God's undeserved favor. Now we have peace with God and each other. Now, as we conclude our study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, I would like to borrow Paul's words and address them to you: "Peace and love with faith to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ whose love for us is incorruptible!"

As we wrap up our study of Ephesians, let's review what we've learned thus far. Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus tells us about God's rich blessings, and the resources He gives for living in light of those blessings. Ephesians unfolds truth about God's resources for a variety of life challenges, specifically including marriage. **In chapter 1**, Paul painted a glorious picture of the ways God has blessed "us who believe." **In chapter 2**, he reminds the Ephesians that they were not always a part of this blessed group, but were in fact cut off from God. He then describes an amazing mystery: God makes hostile people (in this case, Gentiles and Jews) into one new unified people! **In chapter 3**, Paul prayed for believers, saying: "I pray that out of his glorious riches God may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (v. 16-19) **In chapter 4**, we find a major shift toward practical application. Chapter 4 opens this way: "Since all these glorious things (ie, chapters 1-3) are true of you, please live in a way that fits with these truths..." Then, **in chapter 5**, Paul explores the practical implications of these wonderful truths to a variety of relationships—marriage, parenting, and the workplace. Which brings us to **chapter 6**, and an opportunity to bring all these truths together in a memorable fashion.



1:20

2:6

- In your Bible, circle the word "seated" in Ephesians 1:20 and 2:6. What all do you observe?
- What does the word "seated" suggest to you? What kind of a person sits? What kind is not allowed to sit? In what sorts of situations are you the seated one, while others are not?
- Read Hebrews 1:1-4. What does Jesus' "seatedness" prove?
Read Hebrews 10:10-14. What does Jesus' "seatedness" prove?
Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What does Jesus' "seatedness" prove?
- How complete is Jesus' victory? How complete is his exaltation? (See Ephesians 1:21)
- Are you "seated with Christ in the heavenly places"? If so, what is true of you (by virtue of him)?
- Write a prayer of worship and thanksgiving to your "seated Lord".



2:2, 10

4:1, 17

5:2, 8, 15

- In your Bible, circle the word "walk" in Ephesians 2:2 & 10; 4:1 & 17; and 5:2, 8, & 15.
- According to 2:2 and 4:17-19, how did you used to walk? What good did it get you (see Romans 6:21)?
- According to 4:17, is it **possible** for true Christians to walk in sin (also see 1 John 1:5-10)?
- Describe the walk found in Ephesians 2:10. How does it relate to you?
- Describe the walk found in Ephesians 4:1. How does it relate to you?
- Describe the walk found in Ephesians 5:2. How does it relate to you?
- Describe the walk found in Ephesians 5:8. How does it relate to you?
- Describe the walk found in Ephesians 5:15. How does it relate to you?
- Write a prayer of dedication and trust.



6:11, 13, 14

- In your Bible, circle the word "stand" in Ephesians 6:11, 13, and 14.
- In 6:11, something enables us to stand. What is it? Have you done that thing?
- In 6:13, is "standing firm" something you do at the **beginning** of "the evil day", or is it your status at the **end** of it? What does that suggest to you? What does it mean to "**resist** in the evil day"?
- In 6:14, if we've done what it says, is there any hint of the possibility of **not being able to** stand firm?
- List the items of armor God has given you.
In one sentence (for each), explain what it means. What key Bible passage supports your answer?
Are you wearing the **full** armor of God—**now**? Why or why not?
- Write a prayer, in your own words, which walks you through "putting on the full armor of God".

- Review the summary paragraph at the top of this page. Do any of its statements confuse you? If so, reread that chapter of Ephesians (and the summary statement for that chapter) until you're able to say, "Yup, that makes perfect sense."
- Relate the concepts of "sit", "walk", and "stand" to the various elements of the summary paragraph at the top of the page.
- In your own words, what's the "big idea" of Ephesians? Boil it down until you can say it in one breath.
- Who do you know who needs to hear what you've learned from your study of Ephesians? Will you tell him/her?
- Take a moment now to appreciate, worship, and enjoy your wonderful Lord.