

EPHESIANS

The Gospel shines through Ephesians from start to finish. Like a tree, the letter starts with strong roots beneath the surface, which allows for fruitful living. In a broad sense, the first half of Ephesians says, "This is who you are, by grace" and the second half says, "This is how you should live, by grace."



WHEN YOU MEET:

Corresponds with the sermon from Sunday 13 April

Connect:

Spend some time greeting and welcoming each other.

Pause & Pray:

Take a few minutes to pause and clear your mind, letting go of what may be filling your heart and mind. Share with God what's going on for you at this moment. Allow Him to remind you that you are at home in Him and His immense love for you. He doesn't need anything else from you right now – just your stillness. Pray, asking God to speak to each person through the time together as we reflect on God's word.

Read & re-read the passage: Ephesians 3:1-13

Summary:

Anyone who is acquainted with Paul knows how seriously he took his call from God to be an apostle. The book of Ephesians is no exception. Today God continues to call believers first to himself and then to his purpose for their lives. And he wants us to respond to that call with the same faithfulness Paul did.

Questions:

1. Describe a situation in which you felt called to do something.
2. Read Ephesians 3:1-13. What do you learn about Paul in this passage?
3. Twice Paul uses the expression "God's grace [that was] give [to] me" (vv. 2, 7). What two privileges had God in unmerited favour given him (vv. 3, 7-8)?
4. In contrast to keeping this mystery hidden in the past, what is God's intent now for his church (vv. 10-11)?
5. How do you respond to the idea of taking the message of Jesus Christ to those in your world who need it?
6. How do you see God's grace in your daily life and ministry?

EPHESIANS



**Pray:**

Ask God to open your eyes to his grace in your life. Ask Him to make clear to you His call to serve.

Praise God for his church, the body of Christ. Ask Him to help you to grow in your appreciation of the church.

MORE RESOURCES:

- Discipleship Resources Hub: grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/
- Latest sermon: <https://grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/>

**MAY MISSION MONTH:**

Throughout May Mission Month, we encourage you to spend some time praying for our Mission Partners.

This fortnight, let's thank God for the **Sunshine Hostel** and **Muana & Villy**, who are loving, living and revealing Jesus throughout Thailand.

You can find more information about them and their prayer points in our Mission Partner Information Booklet. Download it [HERE](#) or on our webpage: grlc.org.au/mission



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GEORGES RIVER
LIFE CHURCH

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WHEN YOU MEET:

Corresponds with the sermon from Sunday 27 April

Connect:

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Pause & Pray:

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Read & re-read the passage: Ephesians 3:14–21

Summary:

Prayer expresses desire. As a human puts it, "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed." This is certainly true of this second prayer of Paul's in Ephesians. He pours his heart out to God. The basis of Paul's prayer was his knowledge of God's purpose. This is why Bible reading and prayer should always go together. For it is in Scripture that God has disclosed His will, and it is in prayer that we ask Him to do it.

Questions:

1. What have you learned from a Christian whose background is different from yours? (Consider those who are different in terms of age, denomination, ethnicity, gender, social status, and so on.)
2. Read Ephesians 3:14–19. List all the requests in this prayer.
3. What repeated themes stand out in these requests?
4. How does our understanding of God affect how we approach Him in prayer?
5. As you think about all that has been explained in the book of Ephesians so far, why is love such an important element of Paul's prayer?
6. How have you seen this prayer answered at GRLC?





Questions:

7. It takes the whole people of God to understand the whole love of God, *all the saints* together – Jews and Gentiles, men and women, young and old, black and white – with all their varied backgrounds and experiences. In what current situation or relationship do you have the opportunity to learn from another Christian?
8. How would you like to grow in the way that you pray for GRLC?

Pray:

Kneel or sit quietly in worship before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and earth derives its name.

Pray Paul's prayer for your church.

MORE RESOURCES:

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MAY MISSION MONTH:

Throughout May Mission Month, we encourage you to spend some time praying for our Mission Partners.

This fortnight, let's thank God for **David Cross with ZOE** and **Gus & Audrey**, who are loving, living and revealing Jesus throughout Australia, Thailand and Taiwan.

You can find more information about them and their prayer points in our Mission Partner Information Booklet. Download it [HERE](#) or on our webpage: grlc.org.au/mission



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WHEN YOU MEET:

Corresponds with the sermon from Sunday 11 May

Connect:

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Pause & Pray:

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Read & re-read the passage: Ephesians 4:1-16

Summary:

Sooner or later, and sooner is better, we have to move from studying to content of the gospel to living out the gospel in our everyday lives. At this point in Ephesians Paul moves from the explanation of God's new society to its standards. He turns from exposition to exhortation, from what God has done to what we must be and do, from mind-stretching theology to its down-to-earth, concrete implications in everyday living. The first standard that he emphasises is unity. Paul's vision for the church is this: God's society is to display charity, unity, diversity, and growing maturity. These are the characteristics of a life worthy of God, which the apostle begs us to lead. The more we share Paul's perspective, the deeper will be our discontent with the ecclesiastical status quo.

Questions:

1. How do you think that unity is different from uniformity?
2. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. What does Paul beg the Ephesians to do?
3. How would following the instructions in verse 2 contribute to the unity of the church?
4. The apostle tells us to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit" (v. 3).





Questions:

4. We are to "spare no effort", and in Greek it is a call for continuous, diligent activity. Why would Paul need to urge the Ephesian believers to make every effort to keep the unity just before making such a strong statement about the body being one in verse 4?
5. Read Ephesians 4:7-16. How does Paul make it clear that unity does not mean uniformity?
6. What do we learn about the purpose of spiritual gifts (vv. 12-16)?
7. Which of the qualities of unity discussed in this passage have helped you experience unity with others?

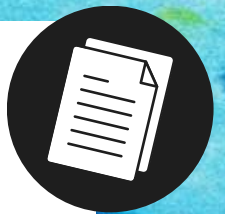
Pray:

Kneel or sit quietly in worship before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and earth derives its name.

Pray Paul's prayer for GRLC.

MORE RESOURCES:

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- Latest sermon: <https://grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/>



MAY MISSION MONTH:

Throughout May Mission Month, we encourage you to spend some time praying for our Mission Partners.

This fortnight, let's thank God for **James Lane with FEAST** and **Baptist World Aid**, who are loving, living and revealing Jesus in South Western Sydney and throughout the world.

You can find more information about them and their prayer points in our Mission Partner Information Booklet. Download it **HERE** or on our webpage: grlc.org.au/mission



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WHEN YOU MEET:

Corresponds with the sermon from Sunday 8 June

Connect:

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Pause & Pray:

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Read & re-read the passage: Ephesians 4:17 – 5:4

Summary:

Paul is concerned not only about the unity of the church but also about its purity. This section of Ephesians is Paul's perspective on purity. Paul gives specific instruction about actively cultivating purity in the Christian life. Holiness is not a condition that we drift into. We are not passive spectators of a sanctification God works in us. On the contrary, we have purposefully to "put off" from us all conduct that is incompatible with our new life in Christ and to "put on" a lifestyle compatible with it.

Questions:

1. On a scale from 1 to 10, 10 being most pure, how would you describe the purity of the church today? Explain.
2. What is the role of the mind in the behaviour of the Gentiles (vv. 17-24)?
3. What are you doing to renew your mind in Christ?
4. Read Ephesians 4:25 – 5:4. List each of the six examples of sin that we are to put off, noting the positive command with each instruction.
5. What reason is given or implied in each case for the commands?
6. Read Ephesians 4:25. Paul states, "For we are all members of one body." What would be the effects of obeying these commands upon the body of Christ?
7. How does who you are in Christ affect the way you want to live?



**Pray:**

Thank God for His call to a life of holiness. Ask Him to reveal to you sin that needs to be put off and the good garments that He wants you to put on.

Thank him for the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

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WHEN YOU MEET:

Corresponds with the sermon from Sunday 22 June

Connect:

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Pause & Pray:

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Read & re-read the passage: Ephesians 5:5-21

Summary:

It is only when we have grasped clearly who we are in Christ that the desire will grow within us to live a life that is worthy of our calling and fitting to our character as God's new society. Spirit-filled believers love God and love each other, which is hardly surprising since the first fruit of the Spirit is love.

Questions:

1. What is it like for you to know something for sure?
2. Read Ephesians 5:5-7. What warning does Paul give in verses 5-7?

NOTE: We must be cautious in our application of Paul's severe statement in Ephesians 5:5-7. It should not be understood as teaching that a single immoral thought, word or deed is enough to disqualify us from heaven; otherwise, which of us would ever qualify for admission? For those who fall into such sin through weakness but afterwards in shame and humility, there is forgiveness. The immoral person described here is one who has turned to this way of life without shame or penitence.

3. In this context what would it mean to be deceived with empty words?
4. In what areas of your life are you most tempted toward idolatry?
5. Why is it important that sin is made visible (v. 13)?





Questions:

6. Note that Paul says, "Be very careful" (v. 15). We all take care over the things that seem to us to matter – our job, our education, our home and family, our hobbies, our appearance. So as Christians we must be watchful over our Christian life. How can we take care of our Christian life?
7. Why is it important to make the most of every opportunity?
8. How could you live more wisely?

Pray:

Recommit yourself to God as a child of light. Tell him of your desire to live as such in a dark world and to please Him.

Ask Him to reveal to you sin and idolatry that separate you from Him.

MORE RESOURCES:

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