

Group Discussion Questions

Read Ephesians 1:3-5

1. How should being “chosen” affect our mindset as we:
 - a. Minister to others?
 - b. Strive toward holiness?
 - c. Struggle with doubt?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

2. When did you first hear the word of truth?
3. When did you first believe?
4. Does it ever cross your mind that you are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit and guaranteed an inheritance? What helps us keep our eyes on this and what distracts from this reality?

Read Ephesians 1:22-23

5. If the Church truly is His body, what should it look like?
6. Is the Church (in general, not necessarily ours) portraying the “fullness” of Christ to the world?

Read Ephesians 2:1-2

7. How were *you (or someone you know)* different when you were:
 - a. “dead in your trespasses and sins” and “following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience”?

Read Ephesians 2:4-5

8. In your life or the life of someone you know, what noticeable difference has there been that Christ has made them *alive*?

Read Ephesians 2:10

9. What “good works” have you discerned that God has created for you to walk in? (*Certain ways you are passionate about serving, certain people you are passionate about reaching/leading, etc.*)

Read Ephesians 2:19-21

10. Are the people in churches today close-knit enough to be considered a “part of the same household” and “growing into a holy temple in the Lord”? In what ways is this being lived out well *or* how can this be improved?

Sermon Notes

Context

- Paul established and encouraged the Ephesian church on his missionary journeys through Asia Minor and Europe.
- He writes this letter from prison in Rome.

- Acts 9:31 “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”

1. Chosen Before Time



Ephesians 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

- Scripture speaks of the concept of free will (Luke 13:34, John 3:16, Revelation 3:20) as well as predestination (Ephesians 1:4-5, Romans 8:29-30, Jeremiah 1:5).
- This should lead us not to debate but to worship! Isaiah 55:8-9: His ways and thoughts are higher than ours.
- Being chosen and predestined should give us confidence and peace.

2. Guaranteed an Inheritance

Ephesians 1:9-10 *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

Ephesians 1:13-14 *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

- Though we are given “life to the full” on this earth (John 10:10) through Christ, there is a measure of delayed gratification.
- Delayed Gratification: The ability to resist an immediate reward in favor of a more significant reward that will come later. (James 4:14 - Our lives are but a mist.)

Ephesians 1:17 *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,*

- Revelation is knowledge that God gives to us supernaturally.

Ephesians 1:18 *having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,*

3. Saved by Grace Alone

Ephesians 2:1-2 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—*

- Satan, demons, and spiritual warfare are real.
- The world is not neutral, but rather there is a current pulling us away from God unless we actively follow Him.

Ephesians 2:4-5 *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—*

Ephesians 2:9 *not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

- Protestant Reformation (1500s) was a return to scripture.
- 5 Solas: Scripture Alone — through Faith Alone — by Grace Alone — in Christ Alone — to the Glory of God Alone

4. Called into the Household of God

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- Our good works should not be FOR salvation, but FROM salvation.

Ephesians 2:19-21 *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,*

Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

- Christianity is a team sport.
- We are meant to be joined together with the household of God (in time and space - we often overlook this).