

Ephesians

A CHURCH ALIVE IN CHRIST

JULY 16, 2023

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Ephesians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to Christians living in the city of Ephesus in order to strengthen their faith, promote their unity, and exhort them to holiness. He reminds them of God's great grace and the spiritual blessings every believer possesses. He prays for them to grow in their knowledge of God and what He has done for them in Christ. He emphasizes grace in the salvation of believers and prays that they would be able to comprehend the love of Christ and that they would be filled with the fullness of God.

MESSAGE TAKEAWAYS:

Week 9 we looked at **Ephesians 4:17-24** where we see how God is calling us to put off the old self and put on the new self. We don't walk how we used to walk. We must put off the old, be renewed, and put on our new self in response to what Jesus has done for us and is doing in us.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- This chapter dives into the response of Christians to what Jesus has done for us upon the cross being reflected in us and flowing out of us. This is a call to clear recognition that there is always something we used to do that now in Jesus we no longer do. Re-read the text and talk about key words or phrases that stick out to you. How does this truth point to a personal and corporate response?
- "Christians are the only people who are not the main character of their own story." Have you ever taken time to sit with your story and how God has worked in your life? If you feel comfortable, write it down - making sure to focus on Jesus being the hero (not you). As you feel led, share stories of what God has done with your group (if walking through in community.)

- ***We cling to regret because we are afraid to join God in His forgetfulness of that thing.*** Have you ever struggled with regret? How has this text, and our journey in Ephesians, encouraged your heart to fix your eyes on Jesus? How can you encourage one another that God is the God who is still working and redeems every part of us?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Pastor Brannon gave us three prayers to walk through:

- 1. Be honest enough to acknowledge who you are*
- 2. Be desperate enough for Jesus to heal you*
- 3. Be serious enough about following Jesus*

First Steps (IDENTIFY): Take inventory of your life.

Are you living in old ways?

Do those old ways find themselves rooted in misplaced belief?

Do you find yourself drifting from Jesus things to fleeting things?

What roadblocks are stopping you from being serious about Jesus?

Next Steps (PROFESS/CONFESS/REPENT): Profess the truths of God (from His Word) that you are clinging to. Confess where your life/thoughts/actions/social posts have not lined up with the fullness of His Word. Repentance is the idea of turning away from and turning back to - as the Holy Spirit leads, turn from those things which aren't in line with what Jesus has done and says about who you now are because of the work He has done on the cross to give you new life and pay the price for your sins. ***Let God be good to you. Put off the old. Let the Holy Spirit renew you. Walk in the new way - the way of Jesus.***

As needed, ask for your community to pray with you or seek out a conversation with a Pastor: <https://ncchapel.churchcenter.com/people/forms/551596>