

EPHESIANS

WELCOME TO EPHESIANS

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday NCFF begins a new teaching series in the Bible book called **Ephesians**. Both in today's introduction, and in our upcoming systematic studies together, we'll see that Ephesians is an *amazing* book, written by an *amazing* man, to share God's *amazing* truths to those who want to experience the *amazing* life that only Jesus Christ can provide. And which, by the way, only the Holy Spirit can sustain ... *amazingly!* 😊 Okay, I know that is a lot of "amazings," but the question is, can Ephesians really deliver on that level? Honestly, yes. It is no exaggeration. Many who have studied Ephesians have referred to it with descriptions like *the Queen of the Epistles ... the divinest composition of man ever written ... the distilled essence of Christianity*. Wow, even if you don't understand all those words, you can't help but realize that the accolades people have showered upon Ephesians after reading it are off-the-chart. Why is that? Because Ephesians is that good, and that relevant to following Jesus. God gave this book to His people as a sort of primer on the Christian life, so that we would **learn truth and live truly**. Not just any truth, but God's truth, the only kind that can actually change you for the better in all the areas of life where you most need it and want it. This is a powerful book of the Bible. Be prepared to spiritually have your eyes opened by it, your heart challenged from it, and if you follow the teachings, your life transformed throughout it.

THE STORY 'BOUT PAUL

1. (1 Timothy 1:15) Totally ...
2. (Galatians 5:1) Totally ...
3. (Galatians 2:20) Totally ...

THE STORY ON EPHESUS

1. The City:
2. (Acts 19; Revelation 2) The Church:

THE STORY OF EPHESIANS

An Easy Outline:

Chapters 1-3 [Learn God's Truth](#)

Chapters 4-6 [Live God's Truth](#)

Famous (and Infamous) Verses:

Main Themes:

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

1. Read through Ephesians ...
2. Pray through Ephesians ...
3. Journal through Ephesians ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of this week's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. To have some fun and help your group delve deeper into the city of Ephesus, the Ephesian church, and the letter of Ephesians, read aloud **Acts 19:1-20:1**. As you read through all the background events in this chapter, stop as each event unfolds to ask yourselves, *What's going on here and what do we think about it?* There are some really amazing things happening.
2. As you listened to Pastor John's introduction to Ephesians, what are some things you find yourself getting excited about in terms of our upcoming study? When you were listening to PJ read that list of famous (and infamous) verses from Ephesians, did you gain a sense of just how needed the teachings of this book are to believers in today's culture?
3. The Apostle Paul was quite a guy. He was fouled-up because though he was super religious outwardly, he knew he was totally messed-up inwardly. Can you identify? But Jesus freed-up Paul, to the point that even when he was in prison for his faith, he was free in his spirit to follow Jesus. How is that possible? And then Paul was fired-up too. What does it look like for a Christian to be honestly fired-up, by Jesus, in our daily living?
4. In your group gathering, build a list of things to pray for directly related to our study through Ephesians on Sunday mornings. Think in terms of prayer items for NCFF (as a whole), you as an individual, Pastor John, our ministry staff & church elders. Don't skip this part: Spend time praying aloud together over these items that you have just identified.