

## **A Summary of the book of Ephesians**

- Paul writes the letter from prison.
- **Acts 19** details Paul at Ephesus.
- Ephesus is the epicenter of pagan worship.
- Paul's ministry was very effective for over 2 years.

### **The letter is basically divided in two:**

1<sup>st</sup> half The story of the gospel

2<sup>nd</sup> half How to live out the gospel

**Chapter one** opens with a beautiful poem that praises God for all His goodness and what He has done through Jesus for His covenant people and the entire world.

**Ephesians 1:10** "...as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

Paul describes the three persons of the God head: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He finishes with a prayer that they would not simply know about God but personally experience His power.

**Romans 12:2** "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

**Romans 1:16** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

**In chapter two** it's all about grace and how it is possible through the redemptive work of the cross all are now welcomed into the family. Before the gentiles were physically alive but spiritually dead. Now in Jesus, His blood and sacrifice provide atonement and the two are now one!

**In chapter three** Paul, in spite of his circumstances, rejoices that he was chosen to introduce non-Jews into the kingdom through the gospel.



**Acts 9:15-16** “But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’”

Closes the chapter with a prayer that by the Spirit they would comprehend God's love.

**Ephesians 3:14-21** “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

**Chapter four** Paul shifts gears and now challenges the believer to live out the gospel.

**Philippians 2:12-13** “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

- Paul emphasizes unity: One body, one Lord, one Spirit, one faith, one baptism, one God. Unity is not the same as uniformity.
- We are all members of one family with different gifts (Apostles, Evangelist, Prophets, Teachers, Pastors, etc.).
- Building up the church as a new temple and a new body.

**1 Peter 2:4-5** “As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

**Romans 12:4-5** “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”



Paul's challenge continues in taking off the old pagan man and putting on the newness of life in Christ.

**TAKE OFF**

Lie  
Anger  
Theft  
Gossip  
Revenge  
Promiscuity  
Drunk

**PUT ON**

Truth  
Peace  
Generosity  
Encourage  
Forgiveness  
Self Control  
God's Spirit

Paul emphasizes signs of the Spirit, which are evident by:

- Singing (alone and together)
- Gratitude
- Considering others as more important

Paul goes on and to explain how this mutual submission is foundational for the success of the family—the relationship between father, husband, mother, wife, children, slaves and masters.

All of this comes at a cost. We are constantly bombarded by the enemy. The challenge is to stand firm using the metaphorical armor of God.

Paul ends with concern for the saints, updates and his desire, and gratitude.

