

Main Idea: Our salvation comes only by the grace of God, so we should live in loving unity with one another.

Context of Ephesians

- **Author:** Paul
- **Audience:** Christians in Ephesus (probably)
- **Situation:** Ephesus was an important city, and the location of an important church.

Trust in God's eternal blessing (1:3-14)

- Chosen as His children (1:4-6)
- Forgiven through His blood (1:7-8)
- United by His grace (1:9-10)
- Sealed with His Spirit (1:13-14)

Understand our story of salvation (2:1-10)

- Dead in our sins (2:1-3)
- Loved by God (2:4-5)
- Made alive with Christ (2:5-7)
- Saved by grace (2:8-9)
- Saved for good works (2:10)

All nations united in Christ (2:11-22)

- Gentiles were strangers to salvation (2:12)
- Now all can be saved in Christ (2:13, 18-19)

Live like who you are (Chapters 4-6)

- Live unified because you are one in Christ (4:1-7)
- Love one another because you have been loved (5:1-2)
- Do not walk in darkness because you are children of light (5:8-11)

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Intro Question: ???

Teaching Part 1

Trust in God's eternal blessing. (1:3-14)

How does the picture of adoption that Paul uses teach us about the love of God for us?

- Paul tells the Ephesians that God chose us to be adopted as His children. This teaches us about our neediness without His love. It teaches us that our salvation is totally a work of grace from Him, and not earned by us. It teaches us about our position of blessing because of His love and our security as His children after our adoption. It shows us that we are more than citizens or subjects to a King. We are sons and daughters if we have been saved by His grace.

Understand our story of salvation (2:1-10)

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. How does Paul describe you before the mercy of God? How does this help you appreciate His love?

- Paul makes it very clear that God's mercy and love are shown to us despite the fact that we had absolutely nothing to offer Him in return. We were dead in our sins. Dead people can't do anything. We were children of wrath, enslaved to our sin like everyone else in the world. But it was in the midst of that death and sinfulness that God showed His love in the work of Jesus.

Teaching Part 2

All nations united in Christ (2:11-22)

Read Ephesians 2:18-19. How does our salvation allow us to be united in a way that is unique to the world?

- By the grace of God we have become members of the same household. The people of God are made up of people from all different tribes and nations, and yet we have access to the Father in the same Spirit. With the Spirit of God dwelling in us, we can live together in love in a way that a fallen world could never do. This is one way that God has chosen to make Himself known to the world: through the unity of all kinds of Christians through the power and love of the Holy Spirit.

Live like who you are (Chapters 4-6)

Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What has God given us to equip us for faithfulness?

- The armor of God gives us what we need to stand firm in the midst of temptation and opposition. These are graces from God that we should take advantage of as we seek to live as children of God. Paul describes them as armor because we face a real spiritual battle every day. Some of the pieces are doctrines we should remember. Some of them are promises we should take hold of. Some of them are resources we should study. All of them help us withstand our enemy in evil days.

Answer to Remember: The letters of the New Testament are God's inspired instructions to His people about the gospel, the Christian life, and the Church.

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EPHESIANS

NT Overview

Teaching Resources

[Bible Project video: Ephesians Overview](#)

[Capitol Hill Baptist Church Core Seminar: NT Overview](#)

[ESV Study Bible: Introduction to Ephesians](#)

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