

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Our Wealth and Our Walk In Christ

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The Seven Churches of Revelation



Paul's Letter to the Ephesians - a circular letter.



Ephesus

Most important city in the Roman province of Asia.

Population: over 300 people

It boasts of theaters, libraries, agora, marble paved streets, and . . .



. . . the temple for which it was famed — Artemis (Greek) - Diana (Roman)



Effective Missionary Presence in Ephesus for 3 Years

Acts 19-20

Before leaving by ship for Jerusalem, Paul fell down on his knees and prayed: **“Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.”**



63 AD —Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians from a Roman prison.

To: Jewish and nonJewish believers in Asia Minor

What others say about Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

The greatest of Paul's writings

The distilled essence of the Christian religion

The greatest piece of writing in all history (W.O. Carver)

The divinest composition of man (Taylor Coleridge)

The crowning glory of the New Testament (Ray Stedman)

The Letter of Ephesians is:

A prison letter

A doctrinal letter

A practical letter

A devotional letter

Theme

God's purpose for the whole universe

... He [God] purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ (Ephesians 1:10b).

Key Words—“blessed” and “in Christ”



Buckle up for a 30,000 foot flyover of this letter.

Our Wealth and Walk in Christ

Chapters 1-3

Chapter 4-6

Therefore

The Story of the Gospel

Our life Story

Our position as Christians

Our lifestyle as Christians

Doctrine

Practical

First Half

Doctrine

Paul explores the story of the Gospel - how all history came to its climax in Jesus . . . and in His creation of the church — a mystical multiethnic community of His followers — “a New Creation.”

Our Wealth in Christ

Second Half

Practical

**Tells how the Gospel should effect
how we live every part of our life story**

- **corporately as the church**
- **personally in our neighborhoods
and communities and families.**

Our Walk in Christ

First Half

The opening verse after the salutation reads:

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed** us with **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ**, (Ephesians 1:3)

Doctrinal

Second Half

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord,
implore you to walk in a manner worthy of
the calling with which you have been called,
(Ephesians 4:1)

Chapter 1

Paul opens with outbursts of adoring praise
— one magnificent sentence

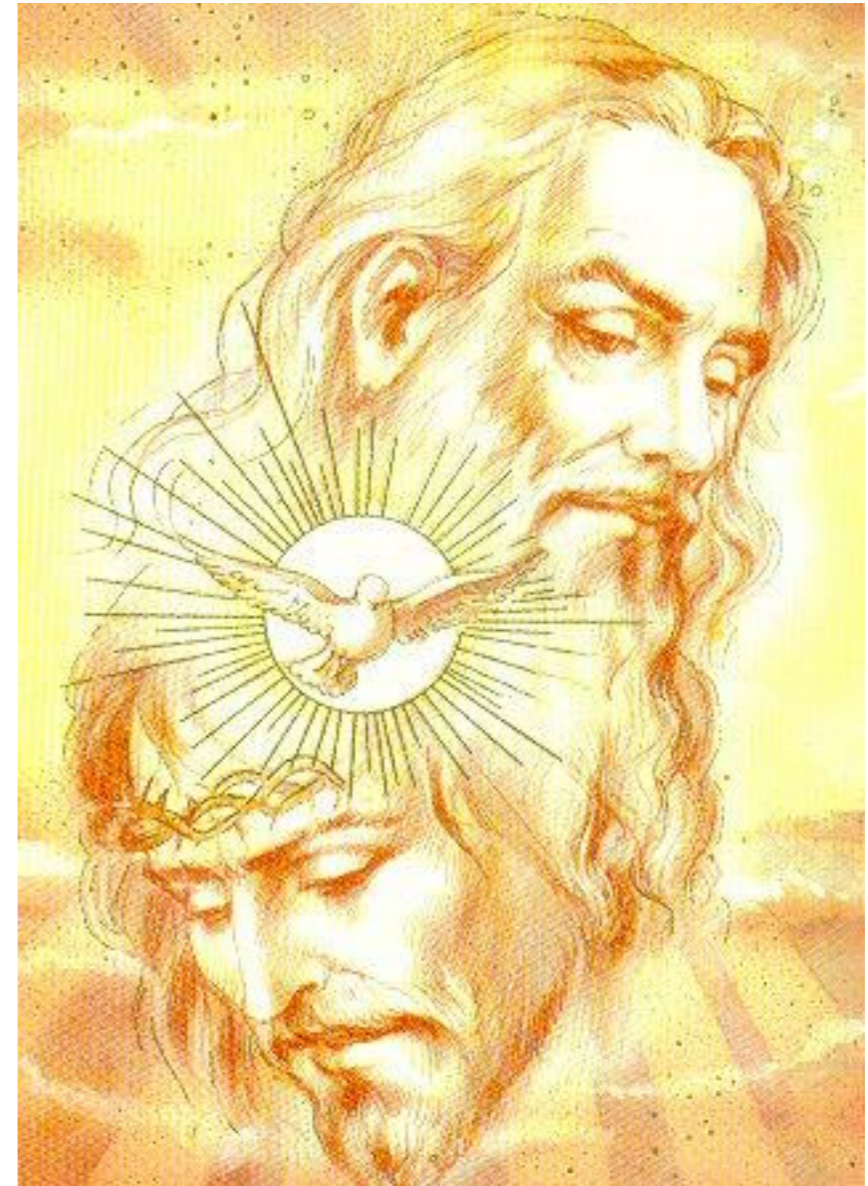
Let's together read Ephesians 1:3-14



The Trinity

Praise be to the **God and Father** of our Lord **Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)

When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the **promised Holy Spirit**, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession (Ephesians 1:13-14)



Great Jewish Promise

From eternity past God has purposed to choose and
bless a covenant people.

Genesis 12:1-3

P
R
O
M
I
S
E

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;

**and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.**

Ephesians 1:12-14

P R O M I S E

. . . in order that **we**, who were the first to put our hope **in Christ**, might be for the praise of his glory. And **you** also were included **in Christ** when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

When **you** believed, you were marked **in him** with a seal, the **promised** Holy Spirit, . . .

we

Ethnic Jews in the family of Abraham

**P
R
O
M
I
S
E**



YOU

Non Jews—Gentiles:

You all heard about Jesus and the salvation through Him

**P
R
O
M
I
S
E**



Acts 2:39

The **promise** is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.

P
R
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E

Which promise?

all peoples on earth will be blessed through you [Abraham].

Genesis 12:1-3

Through Jesus anyone can be adopted into that family.

**P
R
O
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S
E**



God's plan was always to have a huge family of restored human beings who were unified in Jesus the promised Messiah.

After the Adulation is a Prayer

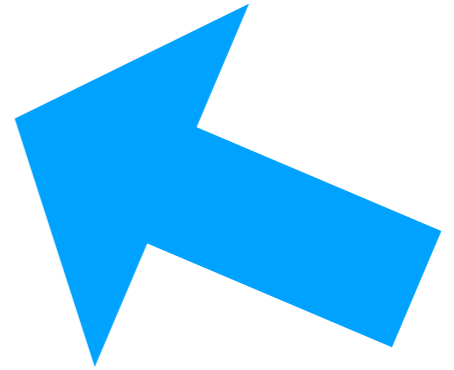
Ephesians 1:15-23

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that **you will know** what is **the hope of His calling**, what are the **riches of the glory of His inheritance** in the saints, and what is the surpassing **greatness of His power** toward us who believe (Ephesians 1:18-19).

Not just know about the power that raised Jesus
but **personally experience resurrection power**

Chapter 2

Chapter 1



Key Ideas

- 1. God's Grace (New condition in Christ)
2:1-10**
- 2. God's New Multiethnic Family —2:11-22**

God's Grace

Ephesians 2:1-10

non Jewish Christians before hearing about Jesus

Physically alive but spiritually dead.



**Trapped in a purposeless life of selfishness and sin
and deceived by spiritual sources of evil**

But GOD

“BY GRACE”

**. . . you are saved through faith, and this
is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it
is not from works, so that no one can boast.**



God's New Multiethnic Family
Ephesians 2:11-12

Gentiles - the “uncircumcision”

Separate from Christ

Excluded from the commonwealth of Israel

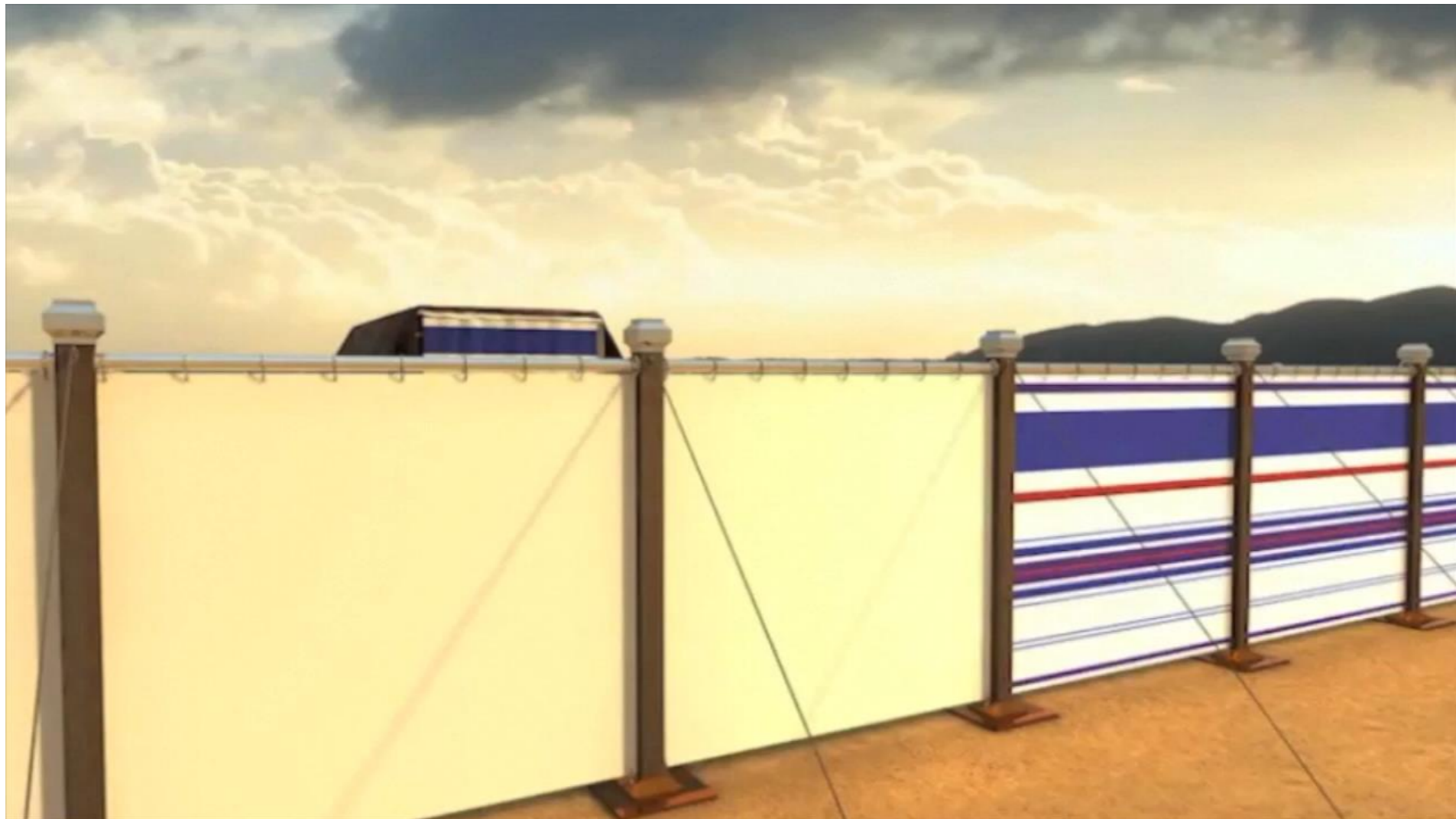
Strangers to the covenant of promise

Having no hope

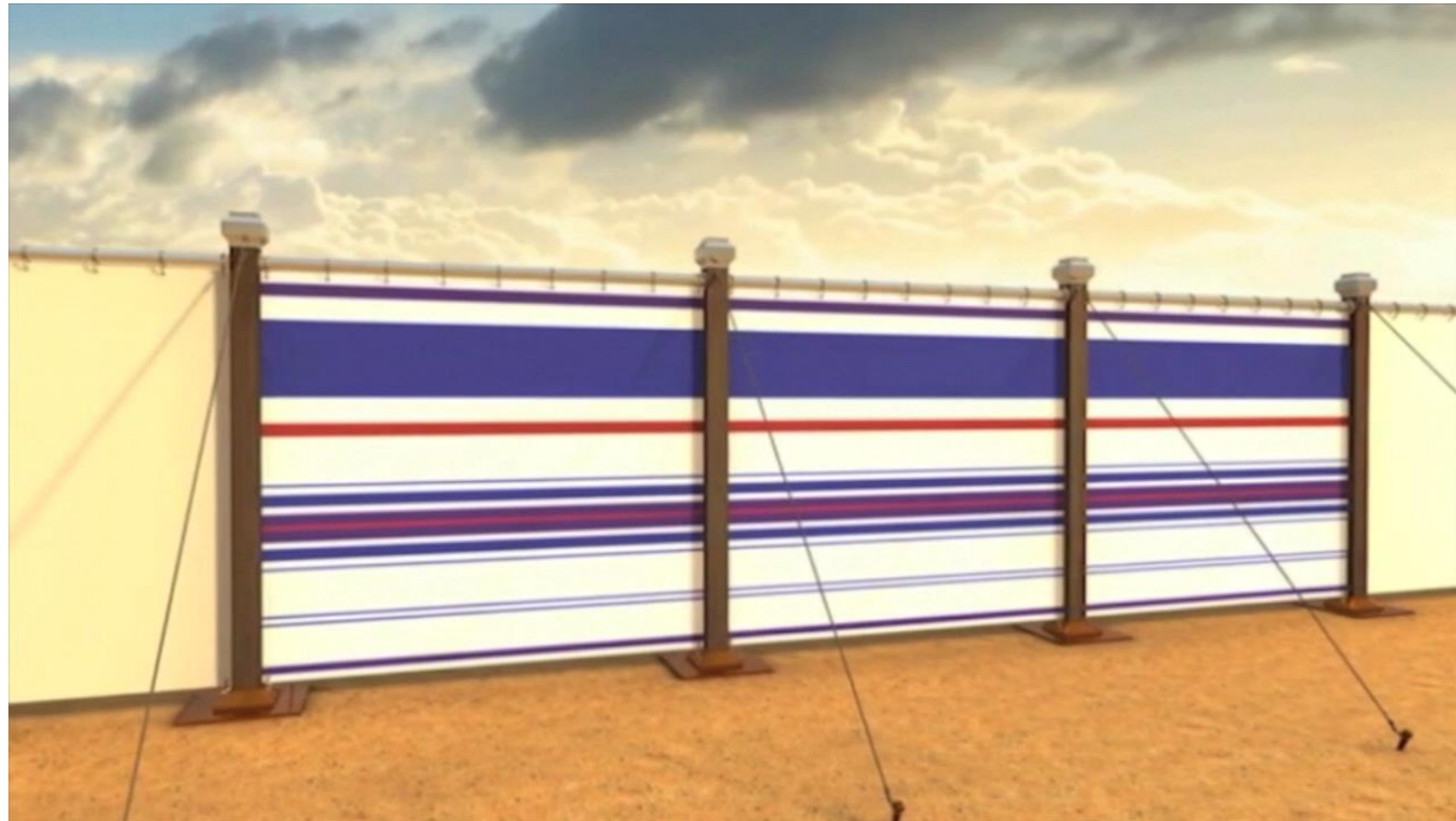
Why excluded from the commonwealth of Israel?

Why strangers?

The commands of the Sinai covenant served as a boundary around the family of Abraham — a barrier that kept most non Jewish people away.



**But in Jesus, the laws of the Torah are fulfilled.
Jesus broke down the barrier and dividing wall.**



Both groups are now unified into ONE family.



They can now live together in peace.

... even **when we were dead** in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus** . . .
(Ephesians 2:5-6).

Chapter 3

Verses 1- 13

Paul reveals the divine mystery

Paul, the least of saints, marvels that he was chosen to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ . . . and to bring to light the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God.



Chapter 3

verses 14-21

Paul reveals the divine fullness

Paul closes the first half of the letter with prayer for the Gentiles to be:

**strengthened by the power of His Spirit
rooted and grounded in love
filled with the fullness of God**



Second Half - Chapters 4-6

Practical —our walk in Christ

Paul challenges the reader to respond to the Gospel story presented in chapters 1-3.

He begins with the everyday life of the church

Chapter 4 —the church corporately

Lots of different kinds of people



ONE

ONE body

ONE spirit

ONE hope

ONE Lord

ONE faith

ONE baptism

ONE God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all

NOTICE

Unity is NOT the same as uniformity

The new family is made up of lots of different kinds of people —different gifts —all empowered by the Holy Spirit

Apostles Prophets Evangelists Pastors Teachers

All given to equip the church

Two metaphors picture the Church

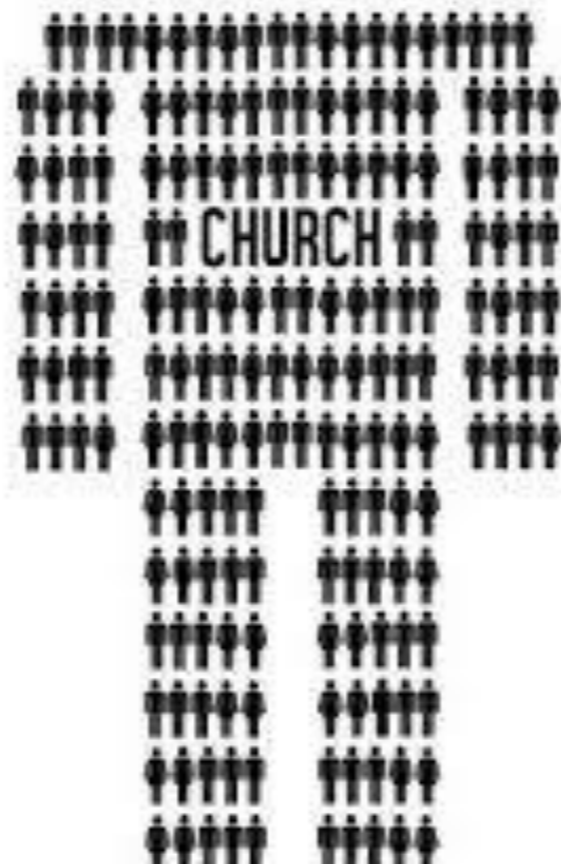
The people form a new temple with
Jesus as the cornerstone

Ephesians 2:19-20



. . . and JESUS as the HEAD - the CHURCH is His BODY
Ephesians 4:15-16

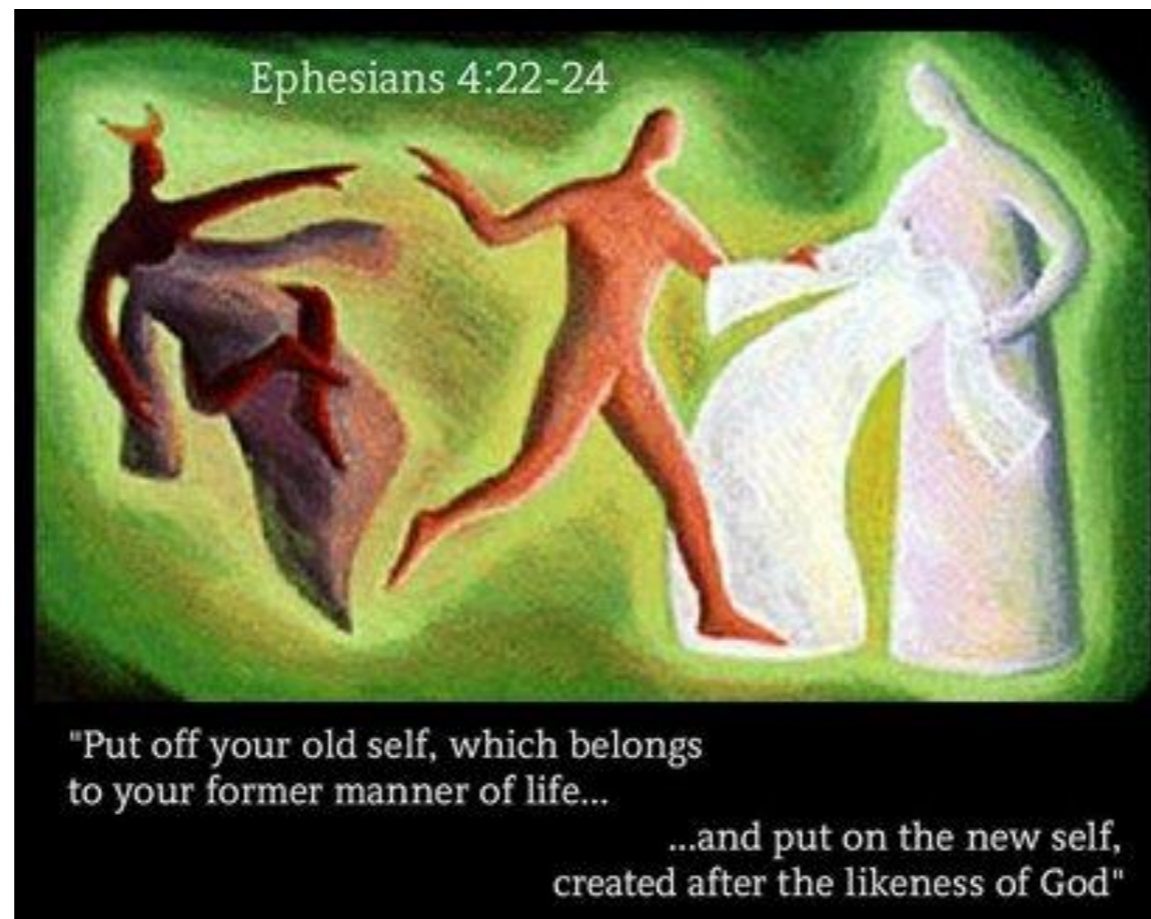
ONE HEAD. ONE BODY.



Regarding believers individually —Ephesians 4:17-5:21

Each one in the “body” is a “New Man”

Paul emphasizes that we must **put off** the former way of life
and
put on the new man, the one created according to God’s likeness.





Lie ————— Speak Truth

Anger ————— Peace

Theft ————— Generous

Gossip/Slander ————— Encourage

Revenge ————— Forgive

Promiscuity ————— Self-Control

Drunk ————— Filled with God's Spirit

Ephesians 5:19-20

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

- 1. Speaking and singing to one another**
- 2. Singing in your heart**
- 3. Giving thanks for everything**
- 4. Submitting to one another**

4. Submitting to one another

Ephesians 5:22-6:9

The Christian marriage reenacts the Gospel story



The husband's actions are like Jesus

The wife's actions are like the church

Jesus and His covenant wife (the Church)



Wife (the Church) follows Jesus.

She allows Him to become responsible for her.

loves His wife and lays down His life for her — prioritizes His well

Oneness in the New Covenant



This mystery is great—but I am actually speaking with reference to Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32).

4. Submitting to one another

Paul then applies the same idea to:

Children

Parents

Slaves

Masters

Ephesians 6:10-18

Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the devil.



This Armor of God is found in Isaiah — about the promised Messianic King

Righteousness will be the **belt** about His loins, and faithfulness
the **belt** around His waist (Isaiah 11:5).

He has made My mouth like a sharp **sword**,
In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; . . . (Isaiah 49:2a).

He put on righteousness like a **breastplate**,
And a **helmet of salvation** on His head; . . . (Isaiah 59:17a)

We, brothers and sisters, are the body of Christ

**We, the church, are to put on the attributes of Jesus
—the full armor of the promised King.**

Prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare.

Pray for your brothers and sisters.

Our Wealth and walk in Christ

Chapters 1-3

Chapter 4-6

Therefore

The Story of the Gospel

Our life Story

Our position as Christians

Our lifestyle as Christians

Doctrine

Practical

Reading plan for the week of March 25

Dig for hidden depths and the concealed treasures

in all 6 chapters of Ephesians

Plus Acts 19 and 20 - Paul's experience in Ephesus