

Ephesians 6:23-24 One Prayer Fits All

introduction:

In general, what do we want to bestow upon others. What gift would we like to give? What do we want other to have? What do we want for our family and friends?

Theme Paul concludes by pronouncing a blessing upon the Ephesian believers.

The blessing describes what It is that Paul desires that God would make abound more and more for each and every believer.

Ephesians 6:23 (ESV) Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:24 (ESV) Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

I. Paul desires that the Ephesians experience more of God's peace.

Ephesians 6:23 (ESV) **Peace be to the brothers**, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. The epistle opens with Paul's expressing a desire for the Ephesians to experience the peace of God.

Ephesians 1:2 (ESV) Grace to you and **peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**.

B. The peace of God includes the peace that God brings about among His people.

1. The reconciliation process between Jew and Gentile is described as making peace.

Ephesians 2:14 (ESV) For he himself is **our peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

2. The reconciliation process is described as a making two into one.

Ephesians 2:14 (ESV) For he himself is our peace, **who has made us both one** and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

Thus both parties are involved. That is Jew and Gentile.

3. Christ acted with the intent of making one new entity out of the existing two entities. There is now a new community of believers.

Ephesians 2:15 (ESV) by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, **that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,**

- a. It isn't just that he took two and brought them together and combined them into one.
- b. He took two and created something very different and better.

4. Application:

- C. Christ acted not only to reconcile Jew and Gentile to each other, but to reconcile both Jew and Gentile to God.

Ephesians 2:16 (ESV) and **might reconcile us both to God** in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

1. Therefore the peace that is spoken of is not just with each other but with God Himself.
2. The peace that we have with God means that we are no longer under God's wrath.

Romans 5:1 (ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:9 (ESV) Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:10 (ESV) For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Ephesians 2:1 (ESV) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

Ephesians 2:2 (ESV) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

Ephesians 2:3 (ESV) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, **and were by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind.

3. Application:

- II. Paul desires that the Ephesians experience more of God's love.

Ephesians 6:23 (ESV) Peace be to the brothers, **and love with faith**, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. God has chosen believers to be recipients of God's love.

Ephesians 1:4 (ESV) even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love**

Ephesians 1:5 (ESV) **he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Ephesians 2:4 (ESV) But God, being rich in mercy, **because of the great love with which he loved us**,

Ephesians 2:5 (ESV) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

- B. It is noteworthy that the Ephesians are already known for their love and faith.

Ephesians 1:15 (ESV) For this reason, **because I have heard of your**

faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,

Ephesians 1:16 (ESV) I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

- C. Nevertheless, Paul prays for the Ephesians out of a desire that their experience of receiving and giving love would increase.

1. First, that they would come to know more of Christ's love for them.

Ephesians 3:14 (ESV) **For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,**

Ephesians 3:15 (ESV) from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

Ephesians 3:16 (ESV) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Ephesians 3:17 (ESV) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith —**that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**

Ephesians 3:19 (ESV) **and to know the love of Christ** that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

2. Second, that they in turn would express more love to others.

Ephesians 4:2 (ESV) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **bearing with one another in love,**

Ephesians 4:15 (ESV) Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Ephesians 5:2 (ESV) **And walk in love, as Christ loved us** and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:25 (ESV) **Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her,

Ephesians 5:28 (ESV) **In the same way husbands should love their wives** as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Ephesians 5:33 (ESV) **However, let each one of you love his wife as himself**, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Ephesians 6:24 (ESV) Grace be with **all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.**

3. Application:

- III. Paul desires that the Ephesians experience more of God's

- A. Paul first expresses his desire for the Ephesians to know more of God's grace in the introduction.

Ephesians 1:2 (ESV) **Grace to you** and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- B. Once again, the Ephesians have already been recipients of God's grace.

Ephesians 2:5 (ESV) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —**by grace you have been saved**—

Ephesians 2:8 (ESV) **For by grace you have been saved through faith.** And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

- C. All of God's people are to be instruments of grace.

Ephesians 4:7 (ESV) **But grace was given to each one of us** according to the measure of Christ's gift.

- D. As recipients of God's grace, we have been entrusted with that grace that we would share it with others.

Ephesians 3:2 (ESV) assuming that you have heard of **the stewardship of God's grace** that was given to me for you,

- E. Our various gifts and areas of service is God's grace to us and to others.

Ephesians 3:7 (ESV) Of this gospel I was made a minister **according to the gift of God's grace**, which was given me by the working of his power.

Ephesians 3:8 (ESV) To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, **this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles** the unsearchable riches of Christ,

- F. Our words can be instruments of God's grace

Ephesians 4:29 (ESV) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, **that it may give grace to those who hear.**

- 1. Encouragement

2. Comfort
 3. Instruction
- G. We are to be praying that others would receive more of God's grace
- Ephesians 6:24 (ESV) **Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ** with love incorruptible.

IV. Conclusion: