

# Ephesians

A CHURCH ALIVE IN CHRIST

JUNE 11, 2023

## SERIES OVERVIEW:

*Ephesians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to Christians living in the city of Ephesus in order to strengthen their faith, promote their unity, and exhort them to holiness. He reminds them of God's great grace and the spiritual blessings every believer possesses. He prays for them to grow in their knowledge of God and what He has done for them in Christ. He emphasizes grace in the salvation of believers and prays that they would be able to comprehend the love of Christ and that they would be filled with the fullness of God.*

## MESSAGE TAKEAWAYS:

Week 4 we looked at **Ephesians 2:1-10** and the truth that we are a people hard-wired for hope. Yet we must start with the bleak reality that all of us, apart from Christ, are dead in trespasses and sin. Sin is not just something I do, it's something I am. And then the beautiful words – “But God” – proclaim this good news message of Jesus, because God is rich in mercy, He loved us in this way: Jesus paid the price for our sin through His shed blood and death on the cross. His resurrection gives us the free gift of grace which saves. Through Jesus we are made alive and raised and seated with Him.

## CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Pastor Brannon talked about how we all can get stuck with the question “How will the wrong of the world be made right?” When we don’t look to Jesus for the answer. How have you personally struggled to look outside of Jesus for saving or hope in a broken and evil world? *Be sensitive to listen well to one another, not offering correction, but interceding on behalf that each of us would seek Jesus above position or platform or earthly answer.*

- We unpacked how the idea of workmanship is less about the object and more about the one who did the work - it is the beauty of the artist, the skill of the craftsman. How does this foster worship of Jesus? How does this change how we view fellow image-bearers who may be works still in process?
- Where have you struggled with the idea of “But while”/“Even when”? Why is this hard to meet others in seasons of “even when” or “but while.”? How does the world tell us to respond? How does the gospel change our approach to sitting with or relating to those who are in the midst of separation from God, doubting, struggling with sin, or wrestling through faith? *Take time to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you to be filled with **grace and truth**.*

## FINAL THOUGHTS:

*Pastor Brannon talked about how we can either work for approvedness or from approvedness. This tension of where we sit, or where others God has placed around us sit, can often be challenging either to personally recognize or to know how to be faithful in relationship with.*

**First Steps (IDENTIFY):** What areas of life are you working for God’s love/favor/approval? What areas of your life are you living from God’s love/favor/approval?

*For example: I need to correct everyone so that God sees me with the right thinking versus I get to listen and pray for the grace-filled way to proclaim the fullness of truth to this fellow image-bearer who Jesus is drawing to Himself and seeks to save.*

**Next Steps (CONFESS/REPENT):** As the Holy Spirit brings to mind wrong thinking/postures, take time to confess and repent. Ask the Holy Spirit or a trusted Jesus follower to help you determine the way in which Jesus would have you live/act/speak/think from the work He has done already for you and the new identity that He has given you through Jesus.

As needed, ask for your community to pray with you or seek out a conversation with a Pastor: <https://ncchapel.churchcenter.com/people/forms/551596>