

Ephesians

A CHURCH ALIVE IN CHRIST

JUNE 18, 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 6 we looked at **Ephesians 3:1-13** where we unpack the beauty when Paul writes of "the mystery of the Gospel." The mystery is that people who have **never** heard of God and those who **have** heard of Him all their lives (who I've been calling "outsiders and insiders") stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- How does remembering the Gospel as a mystery fill you with wonder? Take some time to share as a group praises for who God is and what Jesus has done - either personally or from Scripture that comes to mind.
- Paul talks about being entrusted specifically to the Gentiles. Have you ever spent time in prayer asking God what people and places He has specifically entrusted to you? Take time dialoging about where you as an individual or as a group have been entrusted. Encourage one another in prayer that His Spirit would give you boldness and confidence to be faithful in your rhythms and spaces to make much of Jesus.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

This week, take intentional time to pray or fast for the people and places Jesus has entrusted to you. First steps will help you grasp clarity if you don't already have an answer. And that is okay! We are constantly seeking to abide in Jesus and be faithful to what He has placed before us.

First Steps (IDENTIFY): Where has Jesus entrusted you to make much of Him? No one can be everything to every **single** person, but everyone has at least *one* that you can make much of Jesus towards.

Pastor Brannon gives markers of “Who am I investing in?” And “Who is investing in me?”

Think through your place of work, your neighborhood, your school, etc. Once you have your list, pray over it. Ask the Holy Spirit to make it clear and provide opportunity.

Next Steps (GROW & GO): What is one way you can intentionally make Jesus' presence known to that person(s) this week? Think action combined with words. Mow a lawn and write a card. Visit a neighbor. Ask how you can pray. If you aren't sure, that is okay! Linger longer with Jesus and ask Him to guide you.

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>