

Ephesians

A CHURCH ALIVE IN CHRIST

JULY 9, 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 8 we looked at ***Ephesians 4:1-16*** where the movement shifts from what God has done to what we do in response – for the only reason to do anything is because of what God has already done. What I say I believe and how I actually live must match. So the question we must all ask is “How am I walking?”

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- This chapter begins the crux of movement from God's action (the only imperative verb for us in chapters 1-3 is *remember*) to our action in response to what Jesus has done for us and is doing in us. Pastor Brannon unpacked the idea of **practice & profession**. Take time to discuss this as a group - what ways do you have in place to examine and realign to *walking in a manner worthy of your calling*?
- What is the difference between *come and see the awesome thing* versus *go and do the awesome thing*? How do we handle the weight of our moments gathered with other believers and movements when we are scattered in our everyday rhythms and spaces (where we live, work & play)?

- Pastor Brannon gave two promises: ***church takes work & the work is worth it.*** Take some time as a group to share joys and frustrations, encouraging one another in the hope of Jesus and His work, repenting, and fixing eyes on Jesus as sustainer and orchestrator of all things. Pray with one another, that the Holy Spirit would guide you to daily feed on God's Word and walk in step with God's ways.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

*This week, take intentional time to pray or fast and ask the question: **How am I walking?***

First Steps (IDENTIFY): Take inventory of your life. How is your time in God's Word? What does your time with others look like? Are you fighting frustration and anger towards others? Do you shy away from hard scripture passages?

Next Steps (PROFESS/CONFESS/REPENT): Profess the truths of God (from His Word) that you are clinging to. Confess where your life/thoughts/actions/social posts have not lined up with the fullness of His Word. Repentance is the idea of turning away from and turning back to - as the Holy Spirit leads, turn from those things which aren't in line with what Jesus has done and says about who you know are because of the work He has done on the cross to give you new life and pay the price for your sins.

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>