

Ephesians

A CHURCH ALIVE IN CHRIST

AUGUST 6, 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 12 we unpacked ***Ephesians 5:21-6:9*** and a look at understanding authority. God places authority in His world for His glory. Whether in the relationship of family, marriage, or work - all authority is borrowed authority, and Godly authority is modeled by Jesus.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Brannon began with a quote from Charles Spurgeon that calls us to read all of Scripture equally. To not shy away from it or wince when we read sections that may be difficult. As we enter into this passage, how do you meet it? Is it a welcome passage or one that brings tension for you? Why? *You may want to re-read Ephesians 5:21-6:9 as a group.*
- With this passage, and every passage, we must be careful not to read our own cultural assumptions into the original cultural intent. When it comes to the topics of submission and authority, we should remember that Scripture speaks of these things in terms of a person's function, not their value or identity. How does that understanding shift how you read/understand these passages? In what ways have you read your own cultural assumptions into this text?

- Jesus is the ultimate example of authority and submission for Christians. How should that inform the way in which we live these things out in our lives? How should we exercise authority? How should we exercise submission?
- How has “exasperation” been lived out in your life? Brannon used the example of someone shaking up a soda can so that it is ready to burst. In what relationships in your life are you shaking up the soda can?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Pastor Brannon gave us five closing next steps as we sit with God's Word, challenging us to make space to allow God's Word and the Holy Spirit to guide and convict us to realign our hearts to Jesus.

1. *Find your security in Christ*
2. *Be consistent*
3. *Check your motive*
4. *Refuse to check out*
5. *Eat last*

First Steps (IDENTIFY): As you look at the sermon from Sunday is there anything that stood out in such a way that it convicted you? Where do you need to exercise repentance and seek forgiveness from God and others in your life, especially in regard to how you have handled your borrowed authority?

Next Steps (REPENT/REALIGN): What will you implement in your life to not repeat the same sinful patterns?

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>