
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership

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THE THEOLOGY OF EPHESIANS
IFCL 12 (Advanced Lecture 4a)

INTRODUCTION

The apostle Paul normally divides his epistles into two parts or divisions. The first part or division is devoted to declaring and explaining what is true. The second part is devoted to explaining how we should live because of what is true. An example might be, “you are a child of God (that is a true statement of theology), therefore live like a child of God (which should be the result of what is the true theological statement).” Ephesians is divided up in that way. Chapters 1-3 are filled with theological statements of what is true. The last three chapters are filled with illustrations of how we should live because of what is true.

I. THE THEOLOGY IN EPHESIANS (CHAPTERS 1-3)

- A. The elements of our position in Christ (1:1-14)
 - 1. Believers are blessed with every spiritual blessing. (v. 3)
 - 2. Believers are the chosen ones. (v. 4)
 - 3. Believers are predestined and adopted into God’s family. (v. 5)
 - 4. Believers are redeemed and forgiven. (v. 7)
 - 5. Believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit. (v. 13)
 - 6. God does all of this to show His love, His grace, and to bring Himself glory. (vv. 4, 6, 7, 12, 14)
- B. Paul’s first prayer for them; that they would understand these blessings. (1:15-21)
- C. Christ is the Head of the church. (1:22-23)
- D. The method of salvation (2:1-10)
 - 1. We were dead in trespasses and sins. (v. 1)
 - a. Our spiritual death was according to the prince of the power of the air, who is Satan. (v. 2)
 - b. When we were dead spiritually we were living according to the lusts of the flesh. (v. 3)
 - 2. God made us alive spiritually. (v. 5)
 - a. We didn’t make ourselves come alive spiritually.
 - b. He made us alive spiritually to show His mercy and His love. (v. 4)
 - 3. He raised us up and seated us with Christ in the heavenly places. (v. 6)
 - 4. We were saved by the grace of God through our faith in Christ’s payment. (vv. 8-9)
 - 5. We were saved to walk in the good works God prepared for us before the world began. (v. 10).
- E. The church is described as a temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit. (2:19-22)
 - 1. The church, God’s temple, is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets. (v. 20)
 - 2. Christ is the corner stone in the spiritual building, the church. (v. 20)
 - 3. Believers are the stones that make up the spiritual structure of the church. (v. 21)
- F. Chapter 3 ends with Paul’s second prayer for the believers; that they would know the love of God, and be filled with the fullness of God (3:13-21).

II. THE APPLICATION OF THE THEOLOGY IN EPHESIANS 1-3 (CHAPTERS 4-6)

- A. Because of the believer's position in Christ (Chapters 1-3), he is to live worthy. (4:1-3)
- B. Spiritually-gifted men given to the church (4:11-16)
 - 1. Apostles, prophets (both were foundational, 2:20), evangelist, and the teaching pastor (v. 11)
 - 2. These gifted men are to equip the saints to do the work of serving Christ so the body of Christ will be built up numerically and spiritually. (v. 12)
 - 3. The goals of equipping the saints are unity of the faith (doctrinal unity and understanding), unity of the knowledge of Christ, and the maturity of Christ in each believer. (v. 13)
 - 4. The result of equipping the believers is that believers will no longer be victims of deceitful, and scheming false teachers (v. 14), but will speak the truth in love, and grow in Christ. (v. 15)
- C. The life of the believer living under the control of the Holy Spirit (4:30-5:4)
 - 1. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. (v. 30)
 - 2. Put away wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice. (v. 31)
 - 3. Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving. (v. 32)
 - 4. Imitate God. (5:1)
 - 5. Walk in love. (5:2)
 - 6. Do not let immorality, impurity, greed, filthiness, silly talk, or coarse jesting be named among you. (5:3-4)
- D. The Spirit-filled (Spirit-controlled) life (5:18-6:4)
 - 1. Believers are to be continually filled (controlled) by the Spirit. (5:18)
 - 2. A Spirit-filled wife subjects herself to her husband. (5:22-24, 33)
 - 3. A Spirit-filled husband loves his wife with a Christ-like love. (5:25-32)
 - 4. A Spirit-filled child obeys his or her parents. (6:1-3)
 - 5. A Spirit-filled father does not provoke his children to anger. (6:4)
 - 6. A Spirit-filled slave or employee will obey his or her master or employer. (6:5-8)
 - 7. A Spirit-filled master or employer will not threaten his or her slave or employee. (6:9)
- E. Spiritual warfare (6:10-18)
 - 1. Be strong in the Lord. (v. 10)
 - 2. Put on the full armor of God so you can stand firm against the devil. (v. 11)
 - 3. The devil cannot overpower a Christian so he uses schemes (tricks). (v. 11)
 - 4. Our struggle is against spiritual rulers, spiritual powers, and spiritual world forces. (v. 12)
 - 5. Take up the full armor of God so that you can resist. (v. 13)
 - 6. We do battle with Satan by resisting and standing firm. (vv. 11, 13)
 - 7. We have girded our loins with truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, and covered our feet with preparation of the Gospel of peace.(v. 14-15)
 - 8. Now we are to take up the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit (the Word of God). (vv. 16-17)
 - 9. Pray at all times in the Spirit for all of the saints with perseverance. (v. 18)