



**EPHESIANS**  
**CHOSEN**  
**TO**  
**SHINE**  
**YOUTH STUDY**

**LEADERS NOTES**

**allsouls** <sup>⊕</sup>  
LANGHAM PLACE

# TALK 1/ EPHESIANS OVERVIEW

## LEADERS NOTES

The book of Ephesians gives us two things, deep theology, and practical ways as to how we live it out. This little overview will help us get to grips with the main themes of this great book.

### 1. YOUR NEW ADDRESS EPHESIANS 1

The first major theme concerns who we are in Christ. This chapter tells us seven times what our new address is (1:1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 13). The key truth Paul wants us to understand, regards how we must view ourselves. Every spiritual blessing is in Christ; therefore everything that is true of him, is now true of us.

The world is divided between those who are in Christ and those who are not.

### 2. YOUR NEW HEARTBEAT EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Here Paul moves from spiritual blessing, to spiritual death. By nature our spiritual condition is one of death, leaving us utterly lifeless (2:1). Our only hope is for God to give us spiritual life, something that he graciously does, (2:8).

The world is divided between those who are spiritually alive and those who are spiritually dead.

### 3. YOUR NEW IDENTITY EPHESIANS 2:11-3:13

The beauty and power of the gospel demolishes every division that human sinfully seek to create. These divisions may be, racial, national, class or economic. These things may legitimately reflect our part of our identity, yet the gospel presents us with an identity that supersedes all of these.

The world is divided between those who are part of God's new humanity and those who are not.

### 4. YOUR NEW LIFESTYLE EPHESIANS 3:14-6:24

The book is clearly divided between who you are, and how you should live. The momentum for moral change must come from our new identity in Christ, and that alone.

The world is divided between those whose moral lives are motivated by Christ, and those whose are not.

# 2/ THE FATHER'S PLAN (1)

## EPHESIANS 1:1-14

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

#### Grace

God's unearned love

#### Holy

Set apart by God to be like him

#### Blameless

Free from fault or defect

#### Predestined

God's pre creation plan

#### Adopted

Brought into God's family forever

#### Redeemed/Redemption

Brought back to where you belong

#### Sonship

One of God's chosen eternal children

#### Mystery

God's secret made known to all

#### Glory / Glorified

The greatness of God's character going public

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ Our salvation is God's pre-creation plan, therefore secure
- ◇ Our salvation is dependent upon God's character not my decision

### THE IMAGE THE WAY TO REMEMBER

- ◇ Child holding the father's hand
- ◇ Custard lavished upon apple pie

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### 1. You Are Chosen 1:4-5, 11

It is the Father's pre-creation plan to form a people of his very own, who reflect the character of his son.

The doctrine of election is taught throughout the whole Bible and when properly understood will lead our young people to praise not pride. The natural reaction of most young people when they first hear this truth is to rebel, for it can sound harsh and hard. What this truth reveals is just how desperate our natural state is, and that God is our only hope. By nature we react against this, for our pride convinces us that we must be the answer to our rebellion.

When election is properly understood it will always lead to humility and security. We are humbled by God's love and grace, and joyful that our salvation is down to God eternal initiative and not ours.

#### Application

Our salvation is based upon God's choice not ours.

This humbles our pride and gives us great security.

#### 2. You Are Loved 1:5-9

##### The Nature of The Father's Love

We now move from the act of God choosing to investigate his motive.

##### 1:5 - The Father Pleasure and Will

The Father adopts us, not because he has to, or merely because of our great need. He chooses to adopt us because it causes Him immense pleasure.

##### 1:6 - The Fathers Glorious Free Grace

The grace is not given grudgingly but freely, even though it is utterly undeserved.

##### 1:7-8 - The Father's Lavished Grace

God's grace is inexhaustible, as He lavishes it upon us, with all of His wisdom and perfection.

##### 1:9 - The Father's Good Pleasure

We began with the pleasure of God in choosing to love us, and that is where we finish.

#### Application

Our salvation is based upon the strength and depth of God's love not ours.

He reaches down to hold our hand, and therefore the grip is eternally secure.

#### 3. You Are Secure 1:5, 7

Many Christian fail to understand the radical truth of what redemption and adoption actually mean. To be adopted and redeemed by God means a complete change of status.

##### Adopted into Sonship

*Brought into God's family for ever*

*Part of God's family forever*

The fact that we are adopted, must signify that we once belonged to someone else. In a few weeks time we will learn what our position was before we were adopted, but today we will stay with the positives.

##### It's a change of status not nature

We have moved from being outside of God's family to being part of it. The change of status is wholly down to God choosing to adopt us, which makes our status eternally secure.

Our redemption is through the death of the Lord Jesus. It is through his blood being shed, that brings us into God's family.

Our change of status is therefore wholly dependent upon God's redemption and not our effort, wisdom, intelligence, humility, race, social standing or any other factor that we could possibly dream of.

#### Application

Our salvation is a change of status, secured by God choice to adopt and redeem us.

### SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

#### Straight after the talk

#### YEAR 7-9

1. What words are used to describe how God reveals his love and grace to us?

##### 1:5 - The Father Pleasure and Will

The Father adopts us, not because he has to, or merely because of our great need. He chooses to adopt us because it causes Him immense pleasure.

##### 1:6 - The Fathers Glorious Free Grace

The grace is not given grudgingly but freely, even though it is utterly undeserved.

##### 1:7-8 - The Father's Lavished Grace

God's grace is inexhaustible, as He lavishes it upon us, with all of His wisdom and perfection.

##### 1:9 - The Father's Good Pleasure

We began with the pleasure of God in choosing to love us, and that is where we finish.

2. What difference should the truth of Ephesians 1 make to peer group pressure at school?

*The security of being chosen - 1:4-5,11*

*The security of being loved - 1:5-9*

*The security of a new status - 1:5,7*

3. What strategies can you put in place to help you remember Ephesians 1 this week?

*Memorise scripture*

*Read Ephesians 1 every day for a week.*

*Text friends to encourage them*

#### YEAR 10-13

1. How do these two quotes, one from 500 years ago, and the other from the present day help us to understand Ephesians 1?

*God doesn't love us because of our worth.*

*We are worthy because God loves us. Martin Luther*

*God doesn't love us because we are worthy; he loves us and so we are counted as worthy. It's a subtle but important difference. He gave his only Son as the substitute for our sin. At the cross our sins are forgiven and our status is transformed. For those of us who accept his offer of grace, he makes us 'children of light' and adopts us as his own sons and daughters. We have been scrubbed clean, and he will plunder the universe to bring good things into the lives of his children. Nothing will ever separate us from the passionate love that binds him to us in solemn covenant. We are worth something to him! But here is the rub; we are worth something to him because, in his love, he counts us as worthy. Glynn Harrison*

2. What difference should the truth of Ephesians 1 make to peer group pressure at school or college?

*The security of being chosen - 1:4-5,11*

*The security of being loved - 1:5-9*

*The security of a new status - 1:5,7*

3. What strategies can you put in place to help you remember Ephesians 1 this week?

*Memorise scripture*

*Read Ephesians 1 every day for a week*

*Text friends to encourage them*

# 3/ THE FATHER'S PLAN (2)

## EPHESIANS 1:1-14

### QUESTIONS FOR MIDWEEK

1. How would you define worship?
2. What kind of things or people do your friends worship?
3. What do you think your friends are looking for in those things?
4. The aim of Ephesians 1 is for us to take a good long hard look at the Lord Jesus and worship him.
5. What do we gain by being in Christ?  
**1:3** In Christ we have every spiritual blessing  
**1:4, 11** In Christ we are Chosen, to be holy and blameless  
**1:7** In Christ we have redemption and forgiveness  
**1:9** In Christ God's good pleasure is displayed.  
**1:12** In Christ we gain hope.  
**1:13** In Christ we are saved by God's message of truth  
**1:13** In Christ we sealed with the promised Holy Spirit
6. What practical difference should these truths make to your life?  
**1:3 - Every spiritual blessing**  
Your chatting to your friend at school who is from another faith background. They ask you what is unique about Christianity, what would you say? How should **Ephesians 1:3** help you answer?  
**1:7 - Chosen, redeemed & forgiven**  
A family member who you really loved dies. On the day before the funeral a friend asks you where you think they have gone? How should **Ephesians 1:7** shape your answer?  
**1:12 - In Christ we have hope**  
Your friend is scared about all the talk about North Korea and the world ending. How should the truth of **Ephesians 1:12** help you answer them?
7. Compare what your friends worship to who Christ is. How should that affect help you worship Christ every day?

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

<b>Grace</b> God's unearned love	<b>Redeemed/Redemption</b> Brought back to where you belong
<b>Holy</b> Set apart by God to be like him	<b>Sonship</b> One of God's chosen eternal children
<b>Blameless</b> Free from fault or defect	<b>Mystery</b> God's secret made known to all
<b>Predestined</b> God's pre creation plan	<b>Glory / Glorified</b> The greatness of God's character going public
<b>Adopted</b> Brought into God's family forever	<b>Inheritance</b> Heaven, the new creation

### THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW PIECES

- ◇ In the last session we saw that salvation is God's work not ours
- ◇ This should lead to humility, thankfulness, praise, and security

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ Everything in history, whether it be big or the small, personal or public will one day be under the Lordship of Jesus (**1:22-23**)
- ◇ We see this in the stories of the Exodus in the Old Testament and the cross in the New
- ◇ The stories of the Exodus and cross should lead us to worship our Saviour and King the Lord Jesus

### THE IMAGE THE WAY TO REMEMBER

- ◇ God's grace is like a Nando's coke bottomless (**1:6-7**)
- ◇ God's grace is like lavished custard poured all over an apply crumble (**1:8**)

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### Introduction

The plan of God's salvation is seen first in the story of the Exodus, and then in the story of Jesus. Each truth in Ephesians takes us back to Egypt and then forward to Calvary and then today.

#### 1. God's Plan (Exodus 3:12, 4:23, 7:16, 8:1, 20, 9:1, 13, 10:3, 8, 11, 24, Ephesians 1:22-23)

The plan of God is for the surrounding nations to see His people as a worshipping community. As they worship, the nations will be drawn to the God they love and adore.

**Ephesians 1:12,22-23** God's plan for His church is much bigger. In the book of Exodus we see God working his plan through one nation Israel. The Father's plan is to create a people from every nation who love and adore the Son. A people who are happy to live under his powerful rule.

#### Application

This must be at the centre of our worldview.

#### Your Slavery (Exodus 2:23, Ephesians 2:1-2, 4:18)

**Exodus 2:23** As long as Israel are slaves, God's plan remains unfulfilled

**Ephesians 2:1-2** All the time we are slaves, living under the rule of Satan, God's plan for his church is unfulfilled.

#### Application

Left to ourselves we have no hope.

#### 2. God Fights (Ex 10:3,7; Eph 1:7-10, 22-23)

**Exodus 10:3,7** Through the plagues God reveals to his own people and all of Egypt that He alone is King. The people of Israel can do absolutely nothing, therefore rely completely upon their King to fight and deliver them.

Pharaoh is defeated and Egypt left devastated through Pharaohs' utter stubbornness to repent.

**Ephesians 1:7-10:** Like Israel we are utterly helpless and therefore rely completely upon King Jesus to fight and deliver us.

#### Application

Our only hope is Christ and him alone

#### 3. Your Responsibility (Ex 12:12-13; Eph 1:7-18)

**Exodus 12:12-13** Everything that has happened so far has been on a national level. Israel's slavery and

# REVIEW OF SESSION 1&2

## EPHESIANS 1:1-14

God's actions have been evident for all to see. But now we have a change, for the Israelites are called to trust in God personally. Personally they have to put the blood on the door posts, and trust that God will deliver each household.

**Ephesians 1:7-18** The same applies to each of us. Our slavery to sin and its affects are universal. The cross like the plagues is God's historical act that defeats the enemy and provides a way out for those in slavery. Our responsibility is to trust the death of Jesus for our redemption and salvation. Like the Israelites we have to do this personally.

It's healthy to push this point, as last week we focused upon the sovereignty of God in choosing us.

### Application

We must respond to Christ's grace today.

#### 4. God's Guarantee (Ex 13:21-22, Eph 1:13-14)

**Exodus 13:21-22** Once Israel is saved from slavery they are guided by the pillar of cloud and fire. The purpose of the cloud and fire was to guide them to the Promised Land. This was the inheritance, that God had promised Abraham right back in **Genesis 12**. For Israel it was becoming a present reality.

**Ephesians 1:13-14** Today we are guided by the Holy Spirit and not by the pillar of fire and cloud. What we have is far greater than what the Israelites did, for they merely had a visible expression of God's presence; we have the very presence of God himself living inside us.

### Application

God the Holy Spirit is our guide.

### SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

Questions for straight after the talk:

1. Look up **Ephesians 1:22-23**. Why is so difficult to believe that one day all things will be under the rule of King Jesus?
2. How does God's repeated pattern of salvation help you to trust that one day all the world will be ruled by God's King?

*Our slavery*

*God's Deliverance*

*Our personal trust*

3. What did the Israelites sing about as they worshipped God?

Read **Exodus 14:3-11**

4. What would you include in a modern day song of salvation?

### QUESTIONS FOR MIDWEEK

1. Look up **Ephesians 1:22-23**. Why is it difficult to believe that one day all things will be under the rule of Jesus?
2. Look up **Ephesians 1:3, 5-6**. These verses teach us that we are made to worship Christ.

How do these two quotes help us see what happens when we worship someone or something other than Christ.

Fame is damaging when people become reliant on it for their sense of self, their identity, when fame is linked to how you see yourself. *Daniel Radcliffe*

I don't think I could think of a single thing that's more isolating than being famous. *Lady Ga Ga*

3. When Israel were saved from the slavery of Pharaoh they sang a song of praise. Give it a quick read (**Exodus 15:3-11**). If you were to put a song together about the cross, what would you include? Look up **Ephesians 1:3-10**.

### MESSAGE 1 THE FATHER'S PLAN

#### Chosen by God (1:4-5, 11)

**Ephesians 1** makes it clear that our salvation is wholly down to God's sovereign choice. We see this is the theme throughout the Bible, displayed in characters such as Noah (**Genesis 6:8**), Abraham (**Genesis 12:1**), and Israel (**Deuteronomy 7:7-8**).

### Application

Our salvation is based upon God's choice not ours

#### Loved by God (1:5-9)

- ◇ The reason God saves his people is not primarily because of our great need, but because it delights His heart (**1:5, 9**)
- ◇ God's grace is never-ending; like a bottomless coke at Nando's (**1:6-7**)!
- ◇ God's grace is like custard lavishly poured all over an apple crumble (**1:8**)!

### Application

Our salvation is based upon the strength and depth of God's love not ours

#### Secure in God (1:5, 7)

Our salvation is about a change of status. We were once far away from God and dead in our sin. But now we are adopted and part of God's family. The constant recurring phrase 'in Christ' highlights the change of status.

### Application

Our salvation is a change of status, secured by God's choice to adopt and redeem us

### MESSAGE 2 THE FATHER'S PLAN

#### The Goal (1:12, 22-23)

The goal of God's salvation is to create a worshipping community.

### Application

This must be the very centre of the Christian worldview

#### The Obstacle (1:2:1-2, 4:18)

The obstacle to us worshipping God is our spiritual death

### Application

Left to ourselves we have no hope

#### The Victory (1:7-18, 2:4)

Our only hope is the victory Christ achieves through the cross

### Application

Put your hope in Christ today

#### The Choice (1:12)

The victory in Christ is ours - we just need to embrace it

### Application

We must respond to God's grace today

### MESSAGE 3 SIGNED - SEALED - DELIVERED

#### Satan (Genesis 3:4, John 10:10, Ephesians 6:10-12, 1 Peter 5:8)

Satan's aim is to steal, kill and destroy the image and glory of God found in His people

### Application

To grow as a Christian you have to understand that God's people have a vicious enemy

#### Sealed (1:13-14)

The cross and resurrection not only make us God's people, but define us as His people

### Application

Rejoice that you belong to Christ

#### Guided (1:17, 3:14-19)

The work of the Holy Spirit is to take us to Christ, so that we hear His voice and gaze at His work and character

### Application

Ask the Spirit to show you Christ

#### Delivered (1:18, 19-22)

Once the Spirit has taken us to Christ, He then leads us to our inheritance. He fills our hearts with the hope for the future.

The Spirit fills us with the same power that raised Christ from the dead. This helps us live for Christ in the present.

### Application

Ask the Spirit to fill you with His hope and power

# 4/ DEAD PEOPLE DON'T RISE... OR DO THEY? EPHESIANS 2:1-10

## DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

### Dead

Spiritually dead and totally unresponsive to God

### Transgressions

Active - Always stepping over the line that God has set

### Sin

Passive - missing the mark of God's perfection

### Flesh

Children of Adam; happy to be the one who makes the rules

### Wrath

God's active and consistent opposition to our transgression and sin

### Heavenly Realms

Where Jesus is now

### Good works

Living a life dependent upon God for the good that you do

### Faith

Trust in a person or thing

## THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW PIECES

- ◇ The purpose of God's salvation is to create a worshipping community
- ◇ The Spirit of God points us to the cross and our future inheritance, which enables us to keep going

## THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

To show how God's grace takes us from being spiritually dead to being spiritually alive.

## THE IMAGE THE WAY TO REMEMBER

Our lives resemble a car. We have tuned the music up as loud as it can go, and our foot is full down on the accelerator. We are moving away from God as fast we can, and we neither want to hear his voice or be in his presence.

## THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

### 1. Your Nature

- ◇ Here we have Paul's diagnosis of human nature
- ◇ There is a clear progression, as we will see

### Dead (2:1)

- ◇ The first step is a step into spiritual death. Our first parents took a step away from the source of all life, into the realm of the dead. The experience of death can now be felt when we look at creation, and our relationships with each other and God. From now on mankind will be marked by running and hiding from God (Genesis 3:8, John 1:10, 3:19-20).
- ◇ Our nature is now marked by spiritual death. It's not something we do, but something we are. This is our spiritual state, nature, being.

### Application

- ◇ Accept God's diagnosis of who you are
- ◇ By nature we run from God

### Disobedient (2:2-3)

The second step is into disobedience. Our lives and behaviour flow from who we are. Our nature is marked by spiritual death; therefore our behaviour will be marked by disobedience. This disobedience may manifest itself in hedonism or religious behaviour, but both are ways of gratifying our sinful nature.

### Application

Accept that your behaviour is an outworking of who you are. Running from God will mark every individual and every culture.

### Deserving (2:4)

- ◇ Our nature and the behaviour that flows from it, leaves us deserving of God's wrath.
- ◇ The wrath of God is no cosmic road rage, but instead His active and consistent opposition to our transgression and sin.

### Application

Accept that because of who you are, and the life that you have live, you deserve God's wrath.

### 2. Your God

We have looked at the three steps into death, now Paul reveals the four steps to life.

### Rich mercy that makes us alive (2:4-5)

The first step to our salvation depends wholly upon God, for we are spiritually dead and without hope. Not only are we content with our spiritual death, but also have no desire to seek any help from God. Therefore our only hope of spiritual life has to come from outside of ourselves. New life is only possible because God's nature is full of mercy to those who deserve wrath and judgment. His mercy is revealed when He sees our spiritual plight and chooses to give us life.

### Application

- ◇ Call out to God for spiritual life

### Rich mercy that raises us up (2:6)

The second step is a big one, as we are raised to glory with the risen Jesus. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, raises us also. We are 'in Christ' therefore everything that is true of Him is now true of us.

### Application

- ◇ Realize who you are in Christ and rejoice

### Rich grace that saves (2:7-9)

Having been given new life, we now have the power and desire to seek God's grace and accept the gift He gives. This is the surest sign that we now have new life, that we desire to accept God's undeserved love and grace.

### Application

- ◇ Accept today God's gift of grace and be thankful

### Rich grace that recreates (2:10)

The fourth step is when the Spirit begins the work of recreation. He does this by preparing many good deeds, designed to mould our characters and personalities to reflect the Lord Jesus.

### Application

Every day learn to ask God to show you the good works that he has prepared. These good works make are prepared to make you more like the Lord Jesus.

## SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

1. Think from the news this week. Where has human nature reflected Paul's description of the '3 Ds'?  
Death?  
Disobedience?  
Deserving of wrath?
2. How does our culture or other religions try and answer the symptoms of spiritual death?
3. If you are a Christian what attitude should you have towards those who are spiritually dead?
4. Why does grace leave no room for boasting?
5. What areas does the Spirit need to change you, so that you reflect the wonderful character of Christ?

## QUESTIONS FOR MIDWEEK

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-3.

Paul states that every culture is marked by spiritual death. By nature we run away from God, and never to him. Our lives and behaviour therefore reflect that.

Below are two definitions to help you, read through tonight's Evening Standard to see how these truths are seen and experienced in London culture.

*Sin* Passive; missing the mark of God's perfection

*Transgressions* Active; always stepping over the line that God has set

2. What is spiritual death doing to people?

What is its effect on our culture?

What is sin and transgression doing to people?

What is its effect upon people?

3. Read Ephesians 1:7, 2:4-9.

- ◇ Why does God give us spiritual life?

- ◇ How do the definitions of these three words help us understand?

*Wrath* God's active and consistent opposition to our transgression and sin

- ◇ All the time we stay as rebels God will oppose us, and remain our enemy

*Mercy* When God sees us in utter need, and decides to do something about it

- ◇ God is love, and His mercy is a clear and real expression of that. When he sees our spiritual death and the devastating effect it is having upon us, he responds with mercy by sending a Saviour.

*Grace* God's unearned love

- ◇ We deserve wrath, but because of his lavished grace (1:7) we receive his undeserved love, which results in forgiveness and redemption through Christ

4. Read Ephesians 2:10, 5:8-10

- ◇ Think back upon this week - what good works has God provided for you? How have they moulded your character to reflect His Son?

- ◇ What is your responsibility to seek those good works?

# 5/ THE POWER OF GRACE

## EPHESIANS 2:11-22

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

#### Gentile

Non Jew

#### Circumcision

Male circumcision is the removal of the foreskin from the human. The outward sign that you belonged to God's people.

#### Christ

God's anointed King

#### Revelation

God speaking directly to Paul

#### Mystery

God's secret made known to all

#### Law

God's commands to His people

#### Covenants

God's promises to His people Israel

#### Household

God's people

#### Prophet

One who speaks God's word

#### Apostle

New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament prophet

#### Chief cornerstone

The part of the building which holds it all together

### THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW PIECES

- ◇ Our nature is always to wilfully run from God, which leaves us facing His wrath
- ◇ Our rebellious natures are only changed by the spiritual life that God gives
- ◇ Once the life of God is pumping through our spiritual veins, the Spirit provides good works to make us more like Jesus

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ Today we begin to explore how God's grace affects human relationships
- ◇ When the church understands the power of the cross properly, all divisions within human nature and culture disappear

### THE IMAGE THE WAY TO REMEMBER

- ◇ We have a new citizenship therefore a new passport

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### 1. Remember What YOU Were (2:11-12)

- ◇ The apostle Paul turns the spotlight towards the Gentiles. Here Paul describes the state of the Gentiles, in comparison to the privileges given to Israel.
- ◇ Sadly Israel spurned those privileges, and instead of being a light to the Gentiles were a shocking failure. The privilege instead of humbling Israel made them proud, leading them to act as if God's grace was deserved.

- ◇ Paul reminds the Gentiles that they were once *foreigners* to God's people, therefore *excluded* from God's blessings - leaving them *without* Christ and therefore *without* hope (2:12).

#### Application

- ◇ Never forget what you were before God's grace saved you

#### 2. Remember What He's Done (2:13-18)

The cross of the Lord Jesus is the Gentiles' only hope. Again the words and phrases Paul uses are key to our understanding:

2:13 By Christ's blood we are brought near

2:14 Christ destroys everything that divides

2:15 He sets aside the law (fulfils it), so as to create a new humanity

2:16 The cross destroys all hostility between human beings

2:17-18 No longer are we far away, but instead all people have access to the Father through the Son and the work of the Spirit

#### Application

Only the cross can bring you near and at peace with God

#### 3. Remember What YOU Are (2:19-22)

- ◇ The cross creates a new humanity
- ◇ *We are no longer foreigners and strangers*, but instead fellow citizens and members of God's household.
- ◇ *We are citizens* We belong to the King's Kingdom, we live under the rule of our new King

- ◇ *We are members of his household (family)*

Now we are part of God's family, one of His children. This speaks of an even more intimate relationship than being a citizen.

- ◇ *We all have the same foundation*, which is the Lord Jesus, His apostles and prophets.

- ◇ *We are all being built into God's holy temple*, where God's Spirit dwells.

#### Application

Our new identity as a child of God supersedes every other identity we have, whether race, class, image, tribe or nationality.

### SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

1. What would you say were the main divisions within the world, Britain, London, your school etc today?
2. What kind of person do you find most difficult to get on with? Why?
3. Just remind yourself of the words that Paul uses to describe a person before God's grace and after God's grace.
4. Look up 2:11-12:  
How has a person totally misunderstood the cross if they carry on living as if they are better than someone else, whether that be through race, class, looks, popularity etc.
5. If you are a citizen and child of God, how can you live out the grace of the cross on Monday at school or college?

# 6/ IT'S A COSMIC GOSPEL

## EPHESIANS 3:1-13

### QUESTIONS FOR MIDWEEK

#### Acts 19

On Sundays we are looking at the message of the book of Ephesians. Here in Acts we get a window into the place and people that Paul was trying to reach with the message of Jesus.

- ◇ In the next few weeks we will study this chapter, which will reveal the opportunities and challenges Paul faced.

#### The City Of Ephesus

The temple of Artemis, the largest building known in the Greek world, dominated the city of Ephesus. This breathtaking building was made of solid marble and boasted 127 columns and became one of the Seven Wonders of the World. At the centre of the temple was the goddess Diana the many breasted cult figure:

*"She was thought of as both a chaste virgin and yet at the same time the mother of all. In both cases she was thought to be the goddess of protection". D. Gooding.*

It cannot be overstated just how powerful a figure she was, as today's story will reveal. It cannot be overstated just how powerful a figure she was, as today's story will reveal.

#### Story 1 - Read Acts 19:1-7

- ◇ What are the similarities between the day of Pentecost and what happened here in Ephesus?

Here we have the day of Pentecost, mark two. Peter and Paul are singing from the same song sheet:

#### Peter

- ◇ He commands people to call on the name of the Lord 2:21.
- ◇ He calls people to repent and trust in 'the name' of Jesus Christ 2:38.
- ◇ Their obedience leads to being filled with the Holy Spirit (2:38).

#### Paul

- ◇ He calls on them to trust Jesus as their Messiah (19:4)
- ◇ He baptises them 'in the name of the Lord Jesus' (19:5)
- ◇ Their obedience leads to being filled with the Holy Spirit (19:6)

#### Story 2 - Read Acts 19:8-10

- ◇ Here we see Paul's strategy for planting a church. What would you say they are?

#### a. He first goes straight to the synagogue (19:8)

Why? Read [Romans 1:14-16](#):

- ◇ The gospel is for all (as we have learnt in [Ephesians 2](#))
- ◇ Paul is indebted to all
- ◇ But when Paul enters any new town or city, the gospel must always go first to the Jews

#### b. He is passionate in sharing the message of God's Kingdom (19:8)

Adjectives used to describe Paul are '*spoke boldly*' and '*argued persuasively*'

- ◇ How can we follow in Paul's footsteps?

Look up [Ephesians 1](#) and see what Paul wants us to be convinced of:

- ◇ 1:4 Chosen
- ◇ 1:5 Adopted
- ◇ 1:7 Forgiven
- ◇ 1:8 Lavished with Gods grace.

The message of the gospel is what makes Paul bold and fuels his methods.

#### c. When rejected he does not give up (19:9-10).

- ◇ What is Paul convinced of? Look up [Ephesians 2:4-5, 3:20-21](#).

Paul's ultimate confidence is NOT in his debating skills, but instead in the God who give life (2:4-5), and the God who can do more than he could ever imagine (3:20-21).

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

#### Christ

God's anointed King

#### Revelation

God speaking directly to Paul

#### Mystery

God's secret made known to all

#### Holy Prophets

One who speaks God's word

#### Holy Apostle

New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament prophet

#### Promise

Something God guarantees

#### Heirs together with Israel

All the promises of the Old Testament belong to all those who trust in Jesus

#### One body

God's people today, Jew and Gentile

#### Lord's People

God's people today, Jew and Gentile

#### Church

God's people today, Jew and Gentile

#### The manifold wisdom of God

The wisdom of God reflects the BIGNESS his character

#### His eternal purposes

His pre-creation plan we read about in Ephesians 1

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ The church is the BIGGEST thing happening in the universe

### THE IMAGE THE WAY TO REMEMBER

- ◇ Every wall and division mankind builds is destroyed and broken down by God's gospel

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### 1. God's Mystery... Goes Public (3:1-6)

When Paul uses the world mystery it means a secret that is publicly known. This is different from how the word is used in English i.e. something hidden and unknown.

Through the administration of God's grace, Paul's mission is to take the gospel to Gentiles (3:2).

Today we have the unbelievable privilege of living in the age of where the gospel secret has been made public. What the Old Testament believer could only dream of, we have as a reality (3:4-6,9).

The church today is therefore

3:6 Heirs together with Israel

3:6 Members together of one body

3:6 Sharing together in the same promises of Christ

#### Application

Realise and rejoice that you live in the gospel age. We are living in the time where God's salvation secret is known.

#### 2. God's Mission... Goes Cosmic (3:7-12)

The manifold wisdom of God which is the bringing together of all nations, under the rule of the Lord Jesus (1:22-23, 3:10)

This message not affects our lost world, but also all the heavenly realms. As the heavenly beings watch God's gospel breaking down every man made division they are utterly stunned. His manifold wisdom, is brining together a people who are united under the Lordship, no matter what class or colour, tribe or tongue (3:10-12).

#### Application

When God's people stand united in God's grace the rulers and heavenly authorities stand amazed

#### 3. God's Messenger... Gets Glory (3:13)

At the heart of the gospel message is suffering and sacrifice. At the cross we see our saviour. When Paul takes the gospel to gentiles we see deep sacrifice. We greatly benefit from both (3:13).

#### Application

We are called to suffering and sacrifice, so that others hear the gospel and benefit eternally.



# 7/ PAUL'S POWERFUL PRAYER

## EPHESIANS 3:14-21

### SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

- How important are God's people to you?  
Why should they be important to you?  
What words are used to reveal how you belong?
- Gentiles are:
- 3:6 Heirs together with Israel
  - 3:6 Members together of one body
  - 3:6 Sharing together in the same promises of Christ

- How can G Force/Revolution reflect God's manifold wisdom together on Fridays and Sundays?
- How should it make us feel that you can approach a perfect holy God with freedom and confidence?
- What might it cost you to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and Paul? Look up 3:13.

### QUESTIONS FOR MIDWEEK

#### Acts 19:23-41 - The Riot

- What kind of things has Paul been involved in so far in Ephesus?

#### Story 1

- 19:6 Paul enables the Christians in Ephesus to receive the Holy Spirit.

#### Story 2

- 19:8 Paul speaks boldly to Jews about Jesus in the Synagogue
- 19:9 Some reject the message and make it hard for Paul
- 19:10 Both Jews and Gentiles hear God's message

#### Story 3

- 19:11-12 God does amazing miracles through Paul

#### Story 4

- 19:16 Evil spirits beat up seven men

#### Story 5

- 19:17 Because of the demons power people fear the name of Jesus.
- 19:18-20 Because people fear Jesus they repent of their occult past and practices.

With this background we now come to today's story:

#### Story 6 (19:23-41)

- The Way Nickname give to the gospel message Paul is reaching
- Why is Demetrius the silversmith angry with Paul?
    - 19:23-26 People have stopped buying the idols that they sell.
    - 19:23-27 People will stop worshipping the cultures main idol.
  - What has happened to the people living in Ephesus?
 

Look up Ephesians 2:3-5

    - There was a time with they loved worshipping idols
    - There was a time when they were deserving of God's wrath...
    - ...but God gave them spiritual life and all has changed

Look up Ephesians 4:20-24

    - Paul taught them Christ.
    - The result is that they put off their old life and put in a new one.
    - They are changed from worshipping idols, to worshipping the one true God.
  - If you saw as many people in your school saved as Paul did in Ephesus, and saw their lives changed as much what difference do you think it would make to your school?

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

#### Heart

The decision making part of you

#### Inner being

Core spiritual muscles

#### Glorious Riches

God's mighty character

#### Faith

Trust in a person or thing

#### Lord's holy people

The church, God's people

This week, instead of having small groups at the end of the morning we will have them at the beginning. The prayer of Paul acts like a hinge to the letter, as it connects what has been said with what will be said. The phrase that is used as the hinge is 3:14: 'for this reason'. Paul wants us to take a look back at all that God has done for us, so that we 'live a life worthy of the Lord' (4:1).

### SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

#### QUESTIONS FOR YEARS 10-13

##### The hinge swinging back

- What has God done for us?
- How should we enjoy what God has done for us?

Txt	The Blessings Given To God's People	Our Response
1:3	We have every spiritual blessing in Christ	Enjoy being spiritual millionaires
1:4,7	We are chosen, adopted, redeemed and forgiven	Enjoy the fact that our worth is based on who we are in Christ
1:19-20	God gives to us resurrection power	Enjoy Christ's resurrection power
2:5	We are alive in Christ	Enjoy the spiritual life Christ has given
2:5,8	We are saved by grace	Enjoy the truth that you are saved by God's grace and not your good deeds
2:6	We are seated with Christ	Enjoy the fact that you belong to Christ
2:10	You are God's handiwork created to do works that make you more like Jesus	Enjoying hunting for the good works that make you more like Jesus

2:13, 17	Once you were far away from Christ, but now you are near	Enjoy being near to Christ
2:15	We are God's new humanity	Enjoying being part of God's new humanity the church
2:19	We are citizens of God's Kingdom	Enjoy belonging to God and not the world
2:22	We are the dwelling place of God's Spirit	Enjoy the reality of the Holy Spirit dwelling in you
3:6	All the blessings and promises given to Israel now belong to us	Enjoy all the promises of the Old and New Testaments
3:12	We can now approach God with freedom and confidence	Daily enjoy God's presence

## QUESTIONS FOR YEARS 7-9

### The hinge swinging forward

1. How should the gospel change us?

Called to?	Why?
4:1 Live a life worthy	
4:2 Be completely humble and gentle	
4:14-16 Grow into mature Christians	4:14-16 So you will not be deceived by the world
4:17-19 Don't live as if you are unsaved	
4:22 Put off your old self	
4:23 Be made new in the attitude of your mind	
4:24 Put on the new self	4:23 Because you have new mind

2. Who is the enemy we face?

The Enemy	God's Provision
6:11 The devil and his schemes	6:10 His mighty power
6:12 The powers of this dark world	6:13-17 The armour of God
6:12 The spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms	6:18 Praying in the Spirit

us. The Spirit sets the very core of our being, the very roots of who we are, into our identity in Christ.

It's at the cross that we see the height, width, and depth of God's love. The only way that we can properly understand the vastness of God's love is when the Spirit teaching us 3:

#### Established (3:17)

The clearer we understand God's love expressed in the cross, the more established our Christian character will become. The more our inner being is rooted to what God has done, the more we will be able to do what God commands us. Every time the hinge of our lives swings back to consider all that God has done, it will then swing back in the opposite direction in obedience to God.

#### Application

The Father wants our lives to be cemented into the love of God as revealed in the cross.

This is done together as His people, not only as individuals.

### 3. Paul Prays For Our Imagination (3:20-21)

Paul's prayer finishes in the same place as it began, with the richness of God's character (3:17, 20).

When we face a situation that tempts us to give up, we must make use of our imagination. We must seek to imagine all that God could do through us, whatever the situation is that we face.

2. What could God do?

- ◇ 3:20 He can do immeasurably more than we can ask or even imagine
- ◇ 3:20 This is possibly because it's based on his power and not ours
- ◇ 3:21 All the power to change our lives comes from God, therefore all the glory for the change belongs to God.

#### Application

- ◇ There is no limit to what God can do, so pray BIG

## THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW PIECES

- ◇ Chapter 1 - 3:13 have revealed all that we are in Christ
- ◇ Paul now prays that we will realize and enjoy all those truths

## THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ Paul's prayer focuses upon two things that make it possible for us to live a worthy life
- ◇ We need God's divine strength to understand God's love
- ◇ We need the motivation of God's love to live a worthy life

## THE IMAGE THE WAY TO REMEMBER

- ◇ The hinge of our lives that the Holy Spirit controls

## THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

### 1. Paul Prays for Our Strength (3:14-17)

If we are to live a worthy life, then we need God's divine strength. We will never be able to live as the people of God without the power of God.

This great prayer of Paul is not merely for is as

individual, but is directed to the whole people of God. We are God's new humanity (2:15), therefore Paul wants us together to experience the power of God (3:14-15).

1. So how does God strengthen us?

- ◇ The strength comes from the reservoir of God's glorious riches (3:16)
- ◇ The Spirit gives us strength, to the very core of who we are (3:16)
- ◇ This enables King Jesus to rule every area of our lives (3:17)

#### Application

- ◇ Pray this prayer with your friends
- ◇ Pray that your youth group and church will be full of people who enjoy the reality of who they are in Christ

### 2. Paul Prays For Our Fullness (3:17-19)

The Spirit hungers for God's people to be rooted and established in the King's love. When that happens we begin to experience the fullness of God.

#### Rooted (3:17)

The hinge of our mind and affections constantly swings back to remember all that God has done for

# 8/ LIVING WORTHY (1)

## EPHESIANS 4:1-2

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

#### Urge

Plead, beg

#### A life worthy

A lifestyle that reflects your new identity

#### Humility

To champion others people's needs before our own

#### Gentle

Any power you may have, you use for others

#### Patient

Loving the unlovely long term

### THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW PIECES

- ◇ We have prayed Paul's' prayer, now he shows us what it looks like when answered

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ Paul calls us to live a life worthy of the calling we have received
- ◇ The rest of Ephesians will show us what a 'worthy' life looks like
- ◇ Today he gives us two foundation stones, identity and character

### THE IMAGE THE WAY TO REMEMBER

- ◇ Paul praying in a Roman jail

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### 1. Your Identity & Security

Paul is a prisoner of Rome, locked up in a cold, damp cell. Everything about his present reality points to the fact that he belongs to Rome and his futures bleak. Yet Paul sees a very different picture, and reality. A reality that controls every area of his whole life.

**Eph 1:22** A day is coming when Jesus sovereign rule of the universe will be known by all.

**Eph 2:6** Presently Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, the place of power and authority.

**Eph 1:4** Paul knows that the power of Rome is temporary. Paul's identity and security are cemented to God's sovereign plan.

#### Application

You will only find true freedom and security, when you cement your identity to who you are in Christ.

#### 2. Your Character (4:1-2)

Even though Paul sits in a Roman jail, with chains around his hands and feet, he still sees himself as a prisoner of the Lord and not Caesar.

He begs his fellow followers of Christ to live a life 'worthy' of the calling they have received. In one

small verse he begins to show what that character looks like.

**Humble** To champion others people's needs before our own.

**Gentle** Any power you may have, you use for others.

**Patient** Loving the unlovely long term.

These are just some of the character traits that the Holy Spirit wants to develop within God's new humanity (2:10, 15, 3:16-17).

#### Application

- ◇ New identity leads to a new lifestyle
- ◇ The Spirit forms this kind of character over many years

### SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

#### YEARS 7-9

1. What kind of things do your friends get their identity and security from?
2. In what sense are they limited and frail?
3. Put in your own words what *humble*, *gentle* and *patient* mean.
4. What areas of your life do you find it hardest to be humble, gentle, and patient?

#### YEARS 10-13

Questions 1 and 2 (above).

#### Years 10-11

3. Put in your own words what *humble*, *gentle* and *patient* mean.

#### Years 12-13

3. How would you apply humility to writing your university self-declaration?
4. Give practical examples of what being 'humble, gentle and patient' would look like at home and school.

# 9/ LIVING WORTHY (2)

## EPHESIANS 4:1-16

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

#### One body

God's people the church

#### One faith

The Christian faith

#### Apostle

Special messenger of God, who saw the risen Christ.

#### Evangelist

Gifted to equip the Lords people to tell others of Christ. Gifted by God to explain the gospel to unbelievers.

#### Pastor

Gifted by God to build up the Lords people to live worthy lives. It will be done through teaching God's word

#### Mature

A Christian that increasingly reflects the character of God in his day to day life

#### Deceitful Scheming

People or ideas that seek to stop Christians becoming mature

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ The life of God's people must reflect the unity of the Trinity
- ◇ The conquering King gives spiritual gifts, to equip the church for mission
- ◇ A mature church will be able to stand against false teaching

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### 1. Your God - 4:3-6

We have seen that the theme of unity is huge in the book of Ephesians

#### Ephesians 1

All the way through this chapter Paul addresses God's people as a whole, never as individuals. We are saved as individual's (1:13), but we live together under the loving rule of our saviour (1:22-23).

#### Ephesians 2

The Lord Jesus came into the world to destroy the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile, thus creating a new humanity (2:15). Now together we are built into a new temple where God dwells (2:21-22).

#### Ephesians 3

The plan of God is for the whole universe to marvel at his united people (3:9-12).

1. Why is the unity of God's people so important to God?
2. Why are we to make every effort to keep the 'unity of the Spirit'?

Paul's answer is clear and straightforward. The God we serve is a trinity, a united Godhead of Father, Son and Spirit. As God's people we are called to reflect them, in their unity and love.

The theme of 'one' dominates the whole passage:

**One body**, the church (4:4). The Spirit creates the one body.

**One Spirit**, the Holy Spirit (4:4)

**One hope**, our salvation accomplished by Christ (4:4)

The one Lord Jesus creates the one faith, hope, and baptism

**One Lord**, Jesus (4:5)

**One faith**, the faith of the church (4:5). The One Father creates the one family

**One God** and Father of us all (4:6)

#### Application

A 'worthy' life is when God's people together reflect the unity of the Trinity.

#### 2. Your King - 4:9-13

The picture Paul paints is a stunning one, as he chooses **Psalm 68** as the backdrop. Just as David conquered his enemies, so does Jesus.

- ◇ Through the cross Jesus has defeated our hatred of God (2:5).
- ◇ Through the cross Jesus has defeated our hatred of each other (2:14-16)
- ◇ Through the cross we can stand against Satan and all evil (6:10-13)

**4:7** Having defeated all enemies, the Lord Jesus sits upon the throne, the position of all power and authority (1:22-23,2:6-7).

From the position of power he gives his people gifts, which serve as tools to complete his mission (4:9-13). The key words that describe the purpose of the gifts are equip and build up (4:12). As people sacrificially use their gifts for others, the church becomes mature and unified under the leadership of the Lord Jesus (4:13).

# 10/ NEW IDENTITY = NEW LIFESTYLE

## (1) EPHESIANS 4:17-19

### Application

A 'worthy' life is when God's people use their gifts to build others up so that together we grow into mature followers of Jesus.

### 3. Your Future (4:14-16)

Responding to Paul properly brings three radical changes:

- a. Our characters reflect the God we love
  - b. Our churches reflect the unity enjoyed by the trinity
  - c. Our gifts make God's people strong
- With these three things in place, we will be able to face the tricksters who try and ruin our faith (4:14-16).

### Application

A 'worthy' life is when we do all we can to obey what Paul says, so that the church stands strong against false teaching.

### SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

1. What are the gifts God gives to his people?

Txt	What is the spiritual gift?
Eph 4:11	Apostle = One of the twelve
Eph 4:11	Prophet = Applying God's word to a specific situation
Eph 4:11	Evangelist = Gifted to train and explain God's good news
Eph 4:11	Pastor = Teaches and trains God's people to live godly
Eph 4:11	Teacher = Teaches and trains God's people to live godly
Rom 12:7	Serving = A person who teaches others how to serve Christians and non Christians
Rom 12:7	Encouraging = A person who shows strengthen other Christians
Rom 12:7	Giving = A person who passes on the wealth that God has lent them.
Rom 12:7	Leadership = A person who people follow
Rom 12:7	Mercy = A person who shows others how to love people in a Christ-like way

2. How can these gifts build unity, and equip others to serve God?

3. Look at the gifts again, and think of people you know who display them?
4. Give examples of what they actually look like at home, school G Force or Revolution ?
5. If you have one of these gifts, how might you use it to build others up at G Force or Revolution?

Look at the list of gifts Paul mentions here:

Txt	What is the spiritual gift?
Eph 4:11	
Eph 4:11	
Eph 4:11	
Eph 4:11	
Eph 4:11	
Rom 12:7	
Rom 12:7	
Rom 12:7	
Rom 12:7	
Rom 12:7	

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

#### Futile Thinking

A way of thinking that leaves no place for God

#### Life of God

In this context spiritual life (e.g. 2:5)

#### Hardening of their hearts

A repeated rejection of God's truth, which leads to a life that does not want the true God

#### Sensuality & Sexual immorality

Any sexual act outside of God's plan for marriage

#### Truth that is in Jesus

The gospel which is all that Paul has explained to us in chapter 1-3

#### Old self

Old identity, the life you lived before you were a Christian

#### Deceitful desire

Sinful nature that we inherited from Adam

#### New self

New identity as God's child

#### Righteousness and holiness

Living as you were created to be

### THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW PIECES

- ◇ We learn that God gives gifts to his church, to grow and mature
- ◇ Today we will learn that we have only one teacher and that is Christ

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ Godly living must flow out of our relationship with Christ and the new identity he has given us. If we don't root it to these two things, then we will be teaching Christian morality and creating Pharisee instead of disciple.
- ◇ Everyone looks to someone or something for their morality (world view). As God's people we look only to Christ.
- ◇ Our lifestyle will always reflect the teacher we follow and the worldview we own.

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### A New Identity - 4:17-19

The major emphasis of the whole Bible is that Christian living MUST be cemented to God's character and the identity that flows from that. If we fail to do that, we will merely end up creating legalists who live ugly and unattractive lives. When we teach the character of Christ, we instantly cement our identity to being God's loved children (5:1). When this done, disciples are created who have winsome and attractive personalities.

- ◇ How has our identity changed?
- ◇ How should it affect our lifestyle?

### Ephesians 1

Txt	New Identity	New Lifestyle	Txt
1:3	Blessed with every spiritual blessing		
1:4	Chosen to be holy & blameless		
1:5	Adopted		
1:7	Redeemed		
1:7	Forgiven		
1:11	Chosen as part of God's plan		
1:14	God's possession		
1:23	The body of Christ		

**Ephesians 2**

Txt	New Identity	New Lifestyle	Txt
2:5	Alive in Christ		
2:5, 7-8	Saved by grace		
2:6	Seated with Christ in glory		
2:10	God's handiwork		
2:10	Created to do good works	Created to do good works	2:10
2:13, 17	Near to Christ		
2:15-16	God's new humanity		
2:19	Citizens and members of God's household		
2:22	Dwelling place for God's Spirit		

**Ephesians 3**

Txt	New identity	New Lifestyle	Txt
3:6	All God's promises are ours		
3:12	Free to approach God		

**Ephesians 4**

Txt	New Identity	New Lifestyle	Txt
		Live a life worthy of your calling	4:1
		Be completely humble, gentle and patient	4:2
		Make every effort to be united	4:3
		Together we become mature	4:14
		We MUST live as saved not as unsaved	4:17-19

Txt	New Identity	New Lifestyle	Txt
		We must take off the old self, and put on the new self	4:20-24
		We must speak truthfully	4:25
		We must not let sinful anger rule us	4:26
		We must not give the devil a foothold	4:27
		We must not steal, instead do something useful	4:28
		Our tongues are for building others up, not tearing them down	4:29
		We must not grieve the Holy Spirit	4:30
		We must get ride of all bitterness	4:31
		We must replace bitterness with compassion and forgiveness	4:32

**Ephesians 5:1-21**

Txt	New Identity	New Lifestyle	Txt
5:1	Dearly loved children	We must follow God's example	5:1
		We must live a life of love, following Christ's example of sacrifice	5:2
		We must get ride of all sexual immorality and greed	5:3
		We must get ride of obscene and foolish behaviour and course speech	5:4
		We must not be partners with those who live happily sinfully	5:5-7
		We must live as a child of the light	5:8
		We must find out what pleases the Lord	5:10

# 11/ NEW IDENTITY = NEW LIFESTYLE

## (2) EPHESIANS 4:20-24

Txt	New Identity	New Lifestyle	Txt
		We must have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness	5:11
		We must expose dark deeds	5:11
		We must think seriously about our relationship to sin	5:12
		We must live wise lives	5:15
		We must make the most of every opportunity to live a holy life	5:16-17
		We must not get drunk, instead be filled with the Spirit	5:18
		We must always encourage one another through song	5:19
		We must always give thanks to God	5:20
		We must submit to one another out of reverence to Christ	5:21

### Ephesians 6:1-3

Txt	True of us	What God commands	Txt
6:1	Children obey your parents	Honour your mother and father	6:2
6:3	Fathers, don't exasperate your children	Train them to follow Christ	6:3

The book of Ephesians is so clearly divided into two halves. The first three chapters major on what God has done, and the identity that follows. The next three chapters focus upon the behaviour that reflects our new identity.

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

#### Way of life

Paul's example of what it means to follow Jesus.

#### Truth that is in Jesus

The gospel, all that Paul has explained to us in chapter 1-3

#### Old self

Old identity, the life you lived before you were a Christian

#### Deceitful desire

Sinful nature that we inherited from Adam

#### New self

New identity as God's child

#### Righteousness and holiness

Living as you were created to be

#### Former way of life

Life before you were a Christian

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ Your new identity is cemented to what God has done for you
- ◇ The new identity leads to the Lord Jesus being your teacher
- ◇ Your new teacher leads to a new lifestyle

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### 1. The Truth

Every human beings identity is moulded by who they listen to. Young people today have access to many teachers, whether that be social media, peer group, family, etc. Some of what these teachers offer will be good, at other times bad. Every young person has a developing worldview, which will increasingly mould and form his or her characters and personality.

Therefore the key question to ask is, "who are their teachers?"

#### Application

- ◇ Get the young people to try and work out who there teachers are

#### 2. The Teacher (4:20-21)

The Christian is completely different, for they have only one teacher and that is the triune God. This is the major difference between God's people and unbelievers. The way we approach every area of live is governed, ruled and dominated by what God has done for us, and the identity that comes from that. The apostle Paul is not slow or shy in revealing the division and neither should we be.

Here Paul uses the brilliant phrase 'truth that is in Jesus'. This phrase sums up all that Paul has been teaching us so far.

#### Truth in Jesus

The best place to view Jesus relationship to truth is to dip into John's gospel

[John 1:14,17](#) Jesus has come from the Father, full of

grace and truth

[John 8:31-32](#) You can only be a follower of Jesus if you follow his truth

When you follow the truth of Jesus, it sets you free  
[John 8:45](#) The truth of Jesus will always cause division, between those who choose to follow, and those who don't.

[John 14:7](#) The key word in this verse is 'the'. The Lord Jesus is not claiming to be a truth, but the source and foundation of all truth

#### Application

- ◇ The truth if Jesus is absolute
- ◇ The truth of Jesus sets you free
- ◇ The truth of Jesus divides

#### 3. The Lifestyle (4:22-24)

Paul draws the link between teacher, truth, and lifestyle. Depending upon what teacher you follow, will depend on what truth forms your worldview. The worldview you have, will dictate the lifestyle you lead. The picture Paul uses is of old and new clothes. This week we will introduce the picture, and following weeks we will work out what the lifestyle looks like for a young person today.

Txt	Believer	Txt	Unbeliever
4:20	Marked by being a learner	4:17	Futile thinking
4:21	Live by the truth taught in Jesus	4:18	Darkened in their understanding
4:22	Marked by putting off your old self (lifestyle)	4:18	Separated from the life of God
4:23-24	Marked by putting on the new self (lifestyle)	4:19	Given themselves to sensuality

#### Application

Change in identity must lead to change of lifestyle from top to bottom

# 12/ LIVING IN THE LIGHT (1)

## EPHESIANS 4:25-5:1-20

### DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

#### Unwholesome

Word used to describe rotten putrid fruit or fish

#### Grieve

Cause someone pain and hurt

#### Obscene behaviour

Behaviour that's against what God wants for his followers

#### Fruitless deeds of darkness

Behaviour that does not lead to living like Jesus

#### Dark deeds

Actions that the devil approves of

#### Devil

God's arch-enemy, who hates everything about God

#### Sealed

The guarantee that you belong to God

#### Day of redemption

Judgment day, when Jesus will put all wrongs right

#### Fragrant offering

Just like the Old Testament Christ offers up his life for the people

#### Sexual immorality

Any sexual act outside of a covenant (marriage) relationship between a man and a woman (5:31)

#### Improper

Not consistent with your new identity as Christ's follower

#### God's holy people

All those who follow Jesus

#### Foolish talk/course joking

To joke about sex in a way that dishonours God's gift and dehumanizes those who take part

#### Greed

Loving, trusting and obeying wealth rather than God

#### Kingdom of Christ and of God

The arena where followers of Christ dwell

#### Wrath

God's active and consistent opposition to our rebellion and its effects

#### Disobedient

Those who choose to rebel against who God is, what He says, and what He's done

#### Darkness

Living outside of God's grace

#### Light

Those who have been given the life of God, to live obedient lives

#### Fruitless deeds of Darkness

Life lived without Christ

#### Shameful to mention

Not being marked by any one sin

#### The Lord's will

Seeking to live an obedient life

#### Debauchery

A life full of wasted potential and opportunities

Txt	New Identity = New Lifestyle	Greed, Anger, Speech, Sex & Forgiveness
4:27	Don't give the devil a foothold	
4:28	Don't steal, instead do something useful	Greed
4:29	Use your tongue for building others up, not tearing them down	Speech
4:30	Do not grieve the Holy Spirit	
4:31	Get ride of all bitterness	Speech, anger
4:32	Replace bitterness with compassion and forgiveness	Forgiveness

### Ephesians 5:1-21

Txt	New Identity = New Lifestyle	Greed, Anger, Speech, Sex & Forgiveness
5:1	Follow God's example	
5:2	Live a life of love, following Christ's example of sacrifice	
5:3	Get ride of all sexual immorality and greed	Sex
5:4	Get ride of obscene behaviour, and foolish and course speech	Speech
5:5-7	Do not be partners with those who live happily sinfully	
5:8	Live as a child of the light	

5:10	Find out what pleases the Lord	
5:11	Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness	Greed, Anger, Speech, Sex and Forgiveness
5:11	Expose dark deeds	Greed, Anger, Speech, Sex and Forgiveness
5:12	Think seriously about your relationship to sin	Greed, Anger, Speech, Sex and Forgiveness
5:15	Live wise lives	
5:16-17	Make the most of every opportunity to live a holy life	
5:18	Don't get drunk, instead be filled with the Spirit	
5:19	Encourage one another through song	Speech
5:20	Always give thanks to God	Speech
5:21	Submit to one another out of reverence to Christ	

### Ephesians 6:1-3

Txt	New Identity = New Lifestyle	Greed, Anger, Speech, Sex & Forgiveness
6:1	Children obey your parents	Speech, Anger, Forgiveness
6:2	Honour your mother and father	Speech, Anger, Forgiveness
6:3	Fathers, don't exasperate your children	Speech, Anger, Forgiveness
6:3	Train them to follow Christ	

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- Our new identity means radical obedience
- The motivation and power to live an obedient life is cemented to our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The mark that you are chosen, redeemed and forgiven, is that you hunger to be more like Christ
- There are only two areas where our obedience is to be seen and worked out. In the world and among God's people

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### 1. Radical

The radical nature of what God calls us to must not be watered down. The chart below reveals the kind of life our new identity must embrace.

*How is our new lifestyle change related to greed, anger, speech, sex and forgiveness?*

### Ephesians 4

Txt	New Identity = New Lifestyle	Greed, Anger, Speech, Sex & Forgiveness
4:1	Live a life worthy of your calling	
4:2	Be completely humble, gentle and patient	Forgiveness
4:3	Make every effort to be united other Christians	Forgiveness
4:14-16	Together we become mature	Speech
4:17-19	We MUST not live as unsaved but as saved	Greed, Sex
4:20-24	We must put off the old self and put on the new self	Greed, Anger, Speech, Sex and Forgiveness
4:25	We must speak truthfully	Speech
4:26-27	Don't let sinful anger rule you	Anger

# 13/ LIVING IN THE LIGHT (2)

## EPHESIANS 4:25-5:1-20

### Application

The aim this week will be to show the radical life our new identity calls us to. The areas I will focus on in the coming weeks are, greed anger, speech, sex and forgiveness.

### 2. Relationship

We have just seen that living in the light leads to a radical change of life. If this radical call to change is not cemented to our relationship with God, we face big trouble ahead. If we don't cement moral change to their relationship with God, then all the young people hear are cold do's and don'ts. Instead we want them to have a close and vibrant relationship with each person of the trinity.

### The Father

#### He adopts (1:5)

The Father chooses to adopt us into His family. Thankfully this is not based upon our performance, but instead God's loving character (2:1).

### Application

God knows us through and through; therefore we have nothing to prove to him of anyone else. Our adoption into the Father's family is based on his love, and not our worthiness.

#### He gives us grace & life (1:7-8, 2:5,8)

- ◇ In our overwhelming need, he showers us with overflowing grace
- ◇ When we were spiritually dead (2:1) he gives us spiritual life

### Application

The spiritual life we possess to live a godly life is given to us by our heavenly Father.

#### He prepares good works (2:10)

- ◇ The loving Father creates endless opportunities for His children to become more like their wonderful Son

### Application

His commitment to making us like His Son is total

### The Son

#### He Brings Us Near (2:17-18)

- ◇ When we were at war with God and facing His wrath, the Lord Jesus preached peace to us
- ◇ Through his sacrificial death, we can approach the Father with total freedom

### Application

Whatever struggles we face in seeking to be like the Lord Jesus, the Father's door is always open. The Lord Jesus stands at the door beckoning us in to meet and speak to the Father.

### The Spirit

#### He gives us power (1:13, 3:16-19)

- ◇ The Spirit gives us power to become like the Lord Jesus

### Application

It's the Spirit who reminds us what family we belong to, and what our new identity is.

It's the Spirit who constantly takes us to the cross, to remind us just how much God loves us.

### 3. Reality

We want to finish with helping the young people understand two arenas where godly living is developed.

#### God's People (2:15, 4:16)

- ◇ The first place God wants his people's faith to be nurtured and grown is within his new humanity

#### God's World (5:15-16)

- ◇ The greatest witness to the world is when they see the radical difference God makes in lives of his people. When they see the difference, they will praise the Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

### Application

- ◇ Likeness to Christ is never an individual experience, but instead always developed within His people
- ◇ Make the most of the watching world

## DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS

### Unwholesome

Word used to describe rotten putrid fruit or fish.

### Grieve

To cause someone pain and hurt

### Obscene behaviour

Behaviour contrary to what God wants for his followers

### Fruitless deeds of darkness

Behaviour that does not lead to living like Jesus

### Dark deeds

Actions that the devil approves of

### Devil

God's arch-enemy, who hates everything about God

### Sealed

The guarantee that you belong to God

### Day of redemption

Judgment day, when Jesus will put all wrongs right

### Fragrant offering

Just like in the Old Testament, Christ offers up his life as a sacrifice for the people

### Sexual immorality

A sexual act outside of a covenant marriage relationship between a man and a woman (5:31)

### Improper

Not consistent with your new identity as Christ's follower

### God's holy people

All those who follow Jesus

### Foolish talk/course joking

To joke about sex in a way that dishonours God's gift and dehumanises those who take part

### Greed

Loving, trusting and obeying wealth rather than God

### Kingdom of Christ and of God

The arena where followers of Christ dwell

### Wrath

God's active and consistent opposition to our rebellion and its effects

### Disobedient

Those who choose to rebel against who God is, what He says, and what He's done

### Darkness

Living outside of God's grace

### Light

Those who have been given the life of God to live obedient lives

### Fruitless deeds of darkness

Life lived without Christ

### Shameful to mention

Not being marked by any one sin

### The Lord's will

Seeking to live an obedient life

### Debauchery

A life full of wasted potential and opportunities

## THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW PIECES

- ◇ The power of the trinity gives us the ability to live lives that reflect godly anger and not man's sinful anger

## THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ Our new identity means radical obedience
- ◇ To understand the difference between wrong anger and godly anger
- ◇ To pray that God would raise up a generation of righteously angry young people

## THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

### 1. A Godly Anger

In his commentary on Ephesians John Stott says:

"There is a great need in the contemporary world for more Christian anger... In the face of blatant evil we should be indignant not tolerant, angry not apathetic. If God hates sin, his people should hate it too. If evil arouses his anger, it should also arouse ours also".

As followers of Jesus our young people will lose their tempers and speak unkindly to each other. In most cases the reason will simply be a blocked goal. They want to achieve a certain goal, but something or someone is getting in their way.

With our new identity comes a new goal (1:22-23): that everyone would know and enjoy the rule of the Lord Jesus. Therefore, when the precious name of Jesus is not known or honoured, we get angry. When the image of God in another human being is vandalised, we should get angry.

Like the anger of the Lord Jesus, it's not a loss of temper or a violent rage. Instead, it's a settled opposition to evil and a passion to reverse what you see. When Paul applies this to speech, it looks like this:

### God's truth leads to right speech

- ◇ 4:25 Truth must dominate every area of the Christian's speech



- ◇ 4:26-27 Where God's truth is absent, Satan's lies are present, therefore God's truth must dominate the Christian's speech. Unresolved anger allows the devil to influence what we say and what we do.
- ◇ 4:29 When we put God's truth at the centre, other people's needs become more important than our own. When we put God's truth at the centre, the Spirit teaches us to put others' needs before our own.
- ◇ 4:31 When you put God's truth at the centre, selfish anger quickly becomes one of your main enemies.
- ◇ 4:31-32 When you drive out bitterness, rage and anger, they are replaced by kindness, compassion and forgiveness.
- ◇ 5:32-5:2 Your model of how to be angry is Jesus. Your model of how to love and forgive is Jesus.

#### Anger must be beaten into submission

When the Holy Spirit begins to rule our hearts and minds, ungodly anger begins to be beaten into submission. You learn to look it in the eye and ask yourself five questions.

1. What making me angry?
2. Is it God's honour or my honour at stake?
3. Is the image of God (another human being) being despised?
4. If I show bad anger what will follow?
5. If I show godly anger what good will follow?

Here are two examples from the life of the Lord Jesus where godly anger won:

#### Example 1 - Mark 3:1-6

Here Jesus is clearly angry with the Pharisees (3:5). As we look at the story closely, we can see why: the Pharisees have absolutely no regard whatsoever for the suffering human being before them. Their only concern is to trap Jesus, and they are happy to use a vulnerable human being in their selfish game. It is this total disregard for another person that makes Jesus angry.

As you teach this story get the young people to ask these four questions:

1. What's making Jesus angry?
  - ◇ The religious leaders stubborn hearts

2. Is it God's honour or the Pharisees' honour at stake?

- ◇ The Pharisees honour, they want to catch Jesus out, prove him wrong.

3. What good comes out of Jesus anger?

When Jesus looks at this vulnerable man, he sees His father's fingerprint, for the man is made in His image. It's the high value of the man compared to how the religious leaders are despising him that makes Jesus so angry.

The Lord Jesus chooses to confront the powerful Pharisees who despise God's image, and in so doing protects and heals the vulnerable man (3:4-5).

4. What does good anger cost Jesus?

It's clear from the story that good anger costs Jesus his life (3:6, 21:16).

#### Example 2 - Matt 21:12-17

The second story reveals another side of Jesus' anger. This time his anger is aroused because people are showing complete disregard for His Father's will (21:12-13): the purpose of the temple was for all people to hear about and worship the one true God. Instead, people have made it into a place where money is made in unjust ways, preventing people from hearing about God's grace.

1. What's making Jesus angry? 21:12-13

- ◇ The people God gave the responsibility and privilege of teaching God's word, have made the temple into a modern day betting shop.
- ◇ Their aim is to make cash not converts.
- ◇ Their focus is money not mercy.
- ◇ This makes Jesus angry.

2. Is it God's honour or the Pharisees' honour at stake? (21:16)

- ◇ The Pharisees' honour and reputation is tied to the power and the control they have in the temple. It's this power that Jesus wants to confront.

3. What good comes out of Jesus' anger?

- ◇ It's fascinating to observe that when Jesus is most angry, the vulnerable people find him most attractive (21:14). The Lord Jesus' burning passion is that people know God's love and forgiveness. When people stop others hearing of God's love Jesus' anger burns.

The Vulnerable (21:14)

When the vulnerable witness Jesus' anger they are comforted.

The Strong (21:15-16)

When the strong experience Jesus' anger they are offended

4. What does good anger cost Jesus?

- ◇ The ministry of Jesus is bookended with examples of his anger. Both lead to the powerful wanting him dead (3:6, 21:16).

#### Right Anger - Three Lessons

##### A. It's a controlled anger

In the same passage in Mark we read that the night before Jesus had entered the temple and saw what was going on (Mark 11:11). Jesus' anger is therefore no 'flying off the handle,' but instead a controlled anger directed at clear evil.

##### B. It was never for selfish reasons

The anger of Jesus was clearly not for selfish reasons. His anger was a reaction to the image and name of God being disregarded.

##### C. His anger allows the vulnerable to flourish

Finally, the fruit of his anger resulted in good triumphing. His anger in the first story saw the cripple healed and exposed the hypocrisy of false religion. In the second story, his anger led to the vulnerable being healed and the powerful being humbled and exposed.

#### SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

Here are five questions to apply to the following scenarios:

1. What is making the people angry?
2. Who is affected by their anger?
3. Does it glorify God?
4. Does it help the vulnerable?
5. What would good anger look like in this situation?

#### Scenario 1

Billy is playing Xbox Live with his mates. They are all pretty evenly matched whatever they play. However, when he does beat his mates they tend to swear down the line, and, naturally, he does the same back. I mean he's not just gonna get roasted without defending himself, is he? They talk like this at school too but it's not as bad as when they're online - they

call each other 'Hitler' and 'Stalin' and other people who have committed horrible atrocities as well. The more he plays with them the more he sounds like them. He knows that if his mum or dad knew they would be upset, he knows they can't hear him.

#### Scenario 2

It's a Friday morning and Due Day at school. The results for your A levels are out and you are quietly confident. You worked hard for two years, missing out on a lot of things to study, so you're pretty confident that your results will be really good. However, when you receive them, you can't believe what you see - two results are brilliant... but one is *really* bad.

Suddenly, all your future plans seem to fall apart; the uni you had been dreaming about going to is definitely not a possibility anymore. You feel so angry - angry with your school, angry with your mates who got the results they wanted, and angry with yourself.

#### Scenario 3

India goes to a girls school. It's a bit rough with lots of cliques, but no worse than any other school. Though she isn't the most popular she's not an easy target, and can handle the rumours and spitefulness directed at her. In class, especially when there is a supply teacher, everyone starts hurling abuse at each other. She doesn't really get involved, but if someone starts on her she won't let them get away with it.

India noticed that one girl, Charlotte, gets it more than most. Charlotte doesn't have many friends and India can see that she's really upset by the ongoing comments. She's also quite shy and doesn't do much to defend herself because no one would back her up. It seems to really affect her. India imagines that it could be quite painful always being on the receiving end... but she doesn't want to get involved in case it happens to her, so she gets on with whatever she's doing and ignores it.

#### Scenario 4

Rafael goes to a boys school. It's a bit rough but no worse than any other school and he can handle it. He holds his own in arguments and though he isn't the strongest, he's strong enough to avoid too much trouble. In class, especially when there's a supply teacher, everyone starts hurling abuse at each other. He doesn't really get involved that much, but he won't let anyone get away with it who starts involving him. He notices one kid, Jacob, who gets it more than most. He's not that switched-on, and you can

# 14/ LIVING IN THE LIGHT (3)

## EPHESIANS 4:25-5:1-20

see that he gets really offended when people banter with him. He can't give back as good as he gets, and no one really backs him up. It seems to really affect him but because Raf is aware that it could be quite painful always being on the receiving end, he doesn't get involved. But that's it - conscience clean, he gets on with whatever he's doing.

### Scenario 5

Eric Liddell, the famous Chariots of Fire athlete, would regularly read aloud from Discipleship and the Sermon on the Mount and would dwell on one passage: 'Love your enemies. Bless them that curse you. Do good to them that hate you. Pray for them who persecute you'.

Early in 1944, captive in a prisoner-of-war camp, he began urging other prisoners to pray specifically for the men in uniform, their camp guards. Liddell told his congregation and also his Sunday school classes: 'I've begun to pray for the guard and it's changed my whole attitude towards them. When we hate them we are self-centred.'

This was an extension of a sermon he'd originally given a dozen years earlier in Hawisk on the Scottish borders. There, he had told the story of the disciples who asked Jesus how many times someone ought to be forgiven: 'They could not forgive a person once. They must have the whole spirit of forgiveness.'

### QUESTIONS FOR MIDWEEK

1. Most of our anger is a result of a blocked goal, where something, or someone, is in the way of what we want. In the light of that, what kinds of things make you most angry? How is your anger expressed?

Here are the two stories from the life of the Lord Jesus that we looked at on Sunday. Read them and answer the following questions:

2. What's making Jesus angry? (Mark 21:12-13)

*The people God gave the responsibility and privilege of teaching God's word, have made the temple into a modern day betting shop.*

*Their aim is to make cash not converts.*

*Their focus is money not mercy.*

*And this makes Jesus angry.*

3. Is it God's honour or the Pharisees' honour at stake? (Mark 21:16)

*The Pharisees' honour and reputation is tied to the power and the control they have in the*

*temple. It is this power that Jesus is about to threaten.*

4. What good comes out of Jesus anger?

*It's fascinating to observe that when Jesus is most angry, the vulnerable people find him most attractive (21:14). The Lord Jesus' burning passion is that people know God's love and forgiveness. When people stop others hearing of God's love Jesus' anger burns.*

*- The Vulnerable (Mark 3:5, Matt 21:14): The cripple is healed. When the vulnerable witness Jesus anger they are comforted.*

*- The Strong (Mark 3:4, Matt 21:15-16): The Lord Jesus stands up to the powerful, in light of how they are treating the cripple. When the strong experience Jesus' anger they are offended*

5. What does good anger cost Jesus?

*The ministry of Jesus is bookended with examples of his anger. Both led to the powerful hating him and wanting him dead (3:6, 21:16).*

### THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- ◇ To give the young people a Biblical framework from Ephesians so that they can understand:

- a. *The world they live in*
- b. *The new nature they possess*
- c. *The enemy they face*

- ◇ We will apply this Biblical framework to the issues of greed and sex

### THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

#### Introduction

Christians of previous generations have understood their lives through a very clear framework that reads the world in three ways:

- ◇ The World – The outside arena that resists the Lord Jesus
- ◇ The Flesh – The inside arena that fights against Lord Jesus
- ◇ The Devil – The enemy who exploits those arenas to destroy a Christian's obedience and faithfulness to Jesus

Our aim today is to apply this framework and worldview to greed and sex.

#### Your Worldview

A person's worldview seeks to explain the reality that they see using six basic questions. As we have gone through Ephesians we have tried to answer these questions:

1. Who Is God? (1:3,10,13)
2. Who Am I? (2:19-22)
3. Why am I here? (1:4,12, 2:10)
4. Can we know the difference between right and wrong? (4:17-19)
5. Is there life after death? (6:24)
6. Does it work?

The world, the flesh and the devil are one part of the Christian worldview which seeks to explain how a Christian 'walks in the light'.

### Your World

#### The outside arena that resists the Lord Jesus

- ◇ If our young people are to 'walk in the light' then they must understand the nature of the dark world that they are living in. The way that Ephesians explains our fallen world is clear and robust.

#### Thinking (4:14, 17-18)

Our mind is the first arena that the world attacks. Other worldviews refuse to read reality from the perspective of Jesus being Lord. Instead, individuals, societies and cultures skilfully and deceitfully put themselves at the very centre. If our young people are to navigate a holy life, then they must first understand the nature of the world that they live in. To make mankind's wisdom the reality we live by is foolish, futile and darkened.

#### Lifestyle

*Greed (4:19, 5:3): Loving the created more than the creator*

- ◇ A short glance at the world will very quickly reveal a greedy picture. When a world gets ride of the one true God two things happen:
  - a. People live for created things over the creator
  - b. People decide what is right and wrong

*Sex (4:19, 5:3): Loving the created more than the creator*

The morality of sex, sexuality, and who I am, is driven more by desire than truth. Freedom is for the individual to decide their sexuality, and how they choose to express it. We live in a culture where there are very few boundaries, and endless possibilities. This kind of morality is not new; in fact it's pretty identical to the morality found in Paul's Ephesus 4:19.

*Dark & Empty (4:22-24, 5:8,18)*

The words Paul use to describe a world such as this are stark. He describes the culture as 'corrupt' and 'dark', and their desires as 'deceitful' and 'debauched' (4:22-24, 5:8,18).

#### Your Nature

*The arena inside us that fights against Lord Jesus*

*Dead & Darkened (2:1-3, 4:18, 5:8,11)*

We move from the outside arena to the inside arena. If our young people are to 'walk in the light' then they must realize it'll be a fight and battle. Not only do they have a deceitful world outside longing to

trip them up, but they also have an old nature which desires and delights in helping them fall:

"Mighty indeed must that foe be who even when crucified is still alive!" J.C. Ryle

*Greed (4:19, 22, 5:3): Loving the created more than the creator*

The reason our natures are drawn to created things is because they are good gifts from a loving Father. Yet a fallen nature is always greedy for more. Our natures are drawn to want the best, and to be the best. The outside world constantly calls us to refuse contentment, and choose greed.

*Sex (4:19, 22, 5:3) Loving the created more than the creator*

The reasons our natures are drawn to sex is because it's a good gift from a loving heavenly Father. The outside world calls on our old natures to lead by desire, instead of a loving heavenly Father. The outside world is deceitfully skilful, in knowing exactly how to appeal to our old nature.

### Your Enemy

#### The Devil - He Rules The Outside Arena (2:2, 6:12)

What is clear from Ephesians is that the outside arena, which resists the rule and reign of the Lord Jesus, is governed and ruled by Satan. It would be easy to focus only on what we can see, feel and touch, instead of the one that governs the invisible spiritual control centre. His aim is to provide untold amounts of ammunition for the worldviews that oppose the reality of the living God. When opposing worldviews are strong, he is happy. When opposing worldviews are turning people's minds away from the reality of God's rule, love and grace he is happy. His one aim is to vandalize the development and effect of God's new humanity (2:15).

#### The Inside Arena (6:11,16)

The evil one may rule the outside arena, but he can never have rule God's children. Each one has been chosen by the Father (1:4), and redeemed by the precious blood of the Son (1:7). He knows he can't rule a believer, but he can seek to influence the old nature.

Satan appeals to the old patterns of behaviour. He makes living for material things, seem more real than the unseen almighty. He constantly turns up the volume of the opposing worldviews, that seek to persuade you to live for now and not eternity.

He seeks to persuade you to be the rule maker. He encourages you to make sexual decisions by how you feel, not by what God says.

### SMALL GROUPS THE TIME TO APPLY

- Does the framework of the world, flesh and the devil fit with the world you experience every day?
  - The World - The arena outside us that resists the Lord Jesus
  - The Flesh - The arena inside us that fights against Lord Jesus
  - The Devil - The enemy that exploits those arenas to destroy a Christians obedience and faithfulness to Jesus

The aim of the question is to remind them of the main points of my talk. These ideas may be completely new to some of the young people, so be ready to re-explain the main ideas.

#### The World (4:14, 17-18, 5:3)

- How do adverts entice you to never be content?
  - Brainstorm time - Tell the young people of an advert that you have seen or heard recently, then ask:
- Do you think these verses sum up accurately the worlds advertising strategy? (4:14, 18-19)
 

*Focus on words like 'cunning', 'deceitful' and 'scheming' (4:14)*

*Focus on the hunger to have more and more, and yet never being satisfied (4:18-19)*

#### The Flesh

- Why does materialism and sex have such a strong attraction?
 

*Good gifts from God*
- How are we to view our old nature and old way of living? Read 4:17-24:
 

*We have the life of God pumping around our spiritual veins (2:5).*

*We recognize that the old way of life if full of death, and does not lead to likeness to Jesus.*

*We therefore declare war on it, and with the Spirits power daily take off the old and put on the new.*

6. If you have no desire to be like Christ what might that be pointing to?

*Try and give this question a positive outcome.*

*It probably means we are spiritually dead, so we need to cry out to God for life (2:5).*

#### The Devil

7. Why shouldn't we fear the devil?

*He can never threaten our salvation, or God's ultimate control of His world.*

8. What should we fear about the devil?

*His power to use the world and the flesh to make us fall and fail in our Christian lives.*

9. What is the Christians great hope? Read 6:10.

### Overview of The World The Flesh & The Devil

The World	The Flesh	The Devil
4:14 Clever people with clever ways of deceiving God's people	2:3 Our nature's are opposed to God.	2:2 He rules the world that resists the Lord Jesus
4:17 Thinking that has no place for God	2:3 By nature we deserve God's wrath	2:2 He is the one that is at work in those who disobey God
	4:17 Thinking that moulds your inward character	
	4:18 Darkened understanding	
	4:18 Separated from God	6:11 He schemes against God's people
4:19 Truth & morality are personal choices	4:18 Hard hearts towards God	6:12 He supplies all that the dark world needs to resist the Lord Jesus
4:19 My needs & desires rule my morality		6:12 He rules the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms
5:8 The world is dark	5:8 My heart is dark	6:16 He lives to destroy a Christian's spiritual life
	5:11 Do not produce good fruit	
5:18 Lives marked by wasted opportunities		

## QUESTIONS FOR MIDWEEK

*The World – The outside arena that resists the Lord Jesus*

*The Flesh – The inside arena that fights against Lord Jesus*

*The Devil – The enemy who exploits those arenas to destroy a Christian's obedience and faithfulness to Jesus*

1. Remind yourself of how Ephesians describes the outside arena's thinking. What are the key words Paul uses?

*Look up Ephesians 2:1-3,5, 4:1-14, 7-18*

- ◇ We were *spiritually dead*
- ◇ Therefore we lived *disobedient* lives
- ◇ It's *cunning, crafty, and deceitful*
- ◇ Its thinking is *futile and darkened*
- ◇ It's *separated* from God
- ◇ Its heart is *hard* against God

It's really important to stress that this is speaking of worldviews, i.e. the way that people see and read reality. Every human being is born 'spiritually dead', and separated from God (2:1-3) - it's not that Christians are better or more enlightened; the difference is completely down to the grace of God, and the life that he has given to us (2:5). Our new identity.

2. On Sunday we looked at greed and sex. What is God's design for his people in these areas. Or to put it another way, where does God draw the line?

### **Greed**

4:19 Having rejected God they have lost all sensitivity to what He thinks is best.

4:24 God's reason for giving us life is to remake us into the likeness of His Son, the Lord Jesus

5:3, 31 The person who belongs to Jesus will learn to do all they can to live to please God in the area of sex, though it's really hard.

5:5 We choose to worship the creator and not the created

### **Sex**

4:19 Having rejected God they have lost all sensitivity to what He thinks is best for us.



5:3, 31 The person who belongs to Jesus will learn to do all they can to live to please God in the area of sex, though it's really hard.

3. Look through today's Evening Standard and see where you can spot where the outside arena (the world) draws the line for greed and sex. Answer this question in light of questions 1 and 2.



**Web** [www.allsouls.org](http://www.allsouls.org)  
**Tel** + 44 (0) 20 7580 3522  
**Email** [info@allsouls.org](mailto:info@allsouls.org)

**All Souls Langham Place**  
2 All Souls Place  
London W1B 3DA

 [allsoulslanghamplace](https://www.facebook.com/allsoulslanghamplace)  
 [allsoulslp](https://www.instagram.com/allsoulslp)  
 [allsoulslp](https://twitter.com/allsoulslp)