

## Ephesians: Our Identity in Christ

Paul's words, as led by the Holy Spirit, to the saints in Ephesus are a favorite for many believers. Paul wants God's people to know what it means to be "\_\_\_\_\_." Paul made it known that he was an apostle of Christ Jesus because of \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 1:1). At this stage in their walk with Christ, the saints in Ephesus were \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (Eph. 1:1). How do you and I know God's will? Is faithful a word that's used to describe our walk with Christ?

To understand a particular ministry, it's important to know the \_\_\_\_\_ of that ministry. What do we know about the city of \_\_\_\_\_? Ephesus was one of the largest and most impressive cities in the ancient world. It was a political, religious, and commercial hot spot in Asia Minor. The city played a major role in Paul, Timothy, and John's ministries. Ephesus and its people are mentioned more than \_\_\_\_\_ times in the New Testament. Under the Romans, the city of Ephesus thrived. During the time of Paul's ministry, the city had a reported population of more than \_\_\_\_\_ people.

The \_\_\_\_\_ was in the city of Ephesus. It was known as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Greek temple was dedicated to the goddess Artemis. Artemis was a name for the Greek goddess of the moon. This goddess watched over nature for both humans and animals. She was also known for giving \_\_\_\_\_ to mankind. The selling of small statues of the goddess was big business in Paul's day. Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ affected the economy in Ephesus. Demetrius, a silversmith, rallied support against Paul because his preaching was hurting his business of selling statues (Acts 19).

Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ was tender towards the Ephesian elders. He called the leaders together and shared with them what God was doing in his life. In Acts 20:22-24, Paul said, "*And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*" Whom do you **talk** with about God's call on your life? How did the Ephesian elders respond to Paul? Acts 20:36-38 reads, "*And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.*" Do you and I have people in our lives who would \_\_\_\_\_ down and pray with us?

What are people in the \_\_\_\_\_ saying about our church? In Eph. 1:15-16, Paul stated, "*For this reason, because I have heard of your **faith** in the Lord Jesus and your **love** toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.*"

What truths in the Letter to the Ephesians \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us for ministry?

- God \_\_\_\_\_ us before our conversion experience (Eph. 2:4-5).
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ is about grace and faith, not works (Eph. 2:8-9).
- Good works are the \_\_\_\_\_ result of salvation (Eph. 2:10).
- Jesus Christ is the church's \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 2:20).
- Ministry isn't a \_\_\_\_\_ decision (Eph. 3:7).
- God's \_\_\_\_\_ can't be confined or restricted (Eph. 3:20-21).
- God blesses His \_\_\_\_\_ with shepherds and teachers (Eph. 4:11).
- A pastor's role is to \_\_\_\_\_ God's people for ministry (Eph. 4:12).
- The church \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as God's people serve (Eph. 4:11-16).
- Believers need to be careful how they \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit and to other believers (Eph. 4:29-32).
- God calls His people to live \_\_\_\_\_ because the days are evil (Eph. 5:15-21).
- Husbands and wives need to follow God's \_\_\_\_\_ for marriage (Eph. 5:22-33).
- Healthy families understand \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 6:1-4).
- Workplace \_\_\_\_\_ matter to God (Eph. 6:5-9).
- Believers need to be \_\_\_\_\_ properly for life on the battlefield (Eph. 6:10-20).
- God's people need to guard against \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith (Eph. 6:23-24).

Paul's ministry in Ephesus lasted \_\_\_\_\_ years. One major message Paul had to the saints in Ephesus was \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, Ephesians 4 is a chapter in the New Testament that mentions the word *unity* (Eph. 4:3,13). Paul, using the word *one*, described unity in seven specific ways.

- One \_\_\_\_\_ - Made up of believers everywhere.
- One \_\_\_\_\_ - The Spirit indwells every believer.
- One \_\_\_\_\_ - Our hope is in the Lord and His promises.
- One \_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord.
- One \_\_\_\_\_ - Our faith is in the Lord.
- One \_\_\_\_\_ - This refers to the baptism of the Spirit.
- One \_\_\_\_\_ - He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

What's the difference between being "baptized in" and "filled with" the \_\_\_\_\_?

- Happens \_\_\_\_\_ - Should happen many \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ experience - \_\_\_\_\_ reality.
- For \_\_\_\_\_ believers - For \_\_\_\_\_ believers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ commanded - Commanded.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the believer in the body of Christ - \_\_\_\_\_ the believer to live for Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ - \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.

## Ephesians: Our Identity in Christ

Paul's words, as led by the Holy Spirit, to the saints in Ephesus are a favorite for many believers. Paul wants God's people to know what it means to be "**in Christ**." Paul made it known that he was an apostle of Christ Jesus because of **God's will** (Eph. 1:1). At this stage in their walk with Christ, the saints in Ephesus were **faithful** in Christ (Eph. 1:1). How do you and I know God's will? Is faithful a word that's used to describe our walk with Christ?

To understand a particular ministry, it's important to know the **context** of that ministry. What do we know about the city of **Ephesus**? Ephesus was one of the largest and most impressive cities in the ancient world. It was a political, religious, and commercial hot spot in Asia Minor. The city played a major role in Paul, Timothy, and John's ministries. Ephesus and its people are mentioned more than **twenty** times in the New Testament. Under the Romans, the city of Ephesus thrived. During the time of Paul's ministry, the city had a reported population of more than **250,000** people.

The **Temple of Diana** was in the city of Ephesus. It was known as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Greek temple was dedicated to the goddess Artemis. Artemis was a name for the Greek goddess of the moon. This goddess watched over nature for both humans and animals. She was also known for giving **fertility** to mankind. The selling of small statues of the goddess was big business in Paul's day. Paul's **preaching** affected the economy in Ephesus. Demetrius, a silversmith, rallied support against Paul because his preaching was hurting his business of selling statues (Acts 19).

Paul's **heart** was tender towards the Ephesian elders. He called the leaders together and shared with them what God was doing in his life. In Acts 20:22-24, Paul said, *"And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."* Whom do you **talk** with about God's call on your life? How did the Ephesian elders respond to Paul? Acts 20:36-38 reads, *"And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship."* Do you and I have people in our lives who would **knell** down and pray with us?

What are people in the **community** saying about our church? In Eph. 1:15-16, Paul stated, *"For this reason, because I have heard of your **faith** in the Lord Jesus and your **love** toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."*

What truths in the Letter to the Ephesians **edify** and **equip** us for ministry?

- God **loved** us before our conversion experience (Eph. 2:4-5).
- Our **salvation** is about grace and faith, not works (Eph. 2:8-9).
- Good works are the **divine** result of salvation (Eph. 2:10).
- Jesus Christ is the church's **Cornerstone** (Eph. 2:20).
- Ministry isn't a **career** decision (Eph. 3:7).
- God's **activity** can't be confined or restricted (Eph. 3:20-21).
- God blesses His **church** with shepherds and teachers (Eph. 4:11).
- A pastor's role is to **prepare** God's people for ministry (Eph. 4:12).
- The church **grows** and **matures** as God's people serve (Eph. 4:11-16).
- Believers need to be careful how they **relate** to the Holy Spirit and to other believers (Eph. 4:29-32).
- God calls His people to live **careful** because the days are evil (Eph. 5:15-21).
- Husbands and wives need to follow God's **design** for marriage (Eph. 5:22-33).
- Healthy families understand **roles** and **responsibilities** (Eph. 6:1-4).
- Workplace **behaviors** matter to God (Eph. 6:5-9).
- Believers need to be **dressed** properly for life on the battlefield (Eph. 6:10-20).
- God's people need to guard against **drifting** in the faith (Eph. 6:23-24).

Paul's ministry in Ephesus lasted **three** years. One major message Paul had to the saints in Ephesus was **unity**. In fact, Ephesians 4 is a chapter in the New Testament that mentions the word *unity* (Eph. 4:3,13). Paul, using the word *one*, described unity in seven specific ways.

- One **Body** – Made up of believers everywhere.
- One **Spirit** – The Spirit indwells every believer.
- One **Hope** – Our hope is in the Lord and His promises.
- One **Lord** – Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord.
- One **Faith** – Our faith is in the Lord.
- One **Baptism** – This refers to the baptism of the Spirit.
- One **Father** – He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

What's the difference between being "baptized in" and "filled with" the **Spirit**?

- Happens **once** – Should happen many **times**.
- **Past** experience – **Present** reality.
- For **all** believers – For **obedient** believers.
- **Never** commanded – Commanded.
- **Places** the believer in the body of Christ – **Equips** the believer to live for Christ.
- **Identification** with Christ – **Fellowship** with Christ.