

THOMAS NELSON
NEW KING JAMES VERSION®



Color Code Study Bible



Revealing God's Truth Color by Color

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Color Code Study Bible

The *Color Code Study Bible* provides a clear path to understanding the Bible.

The *Color Code Study Bible* uses vibrant colors to highlight Bible verses on seven key topics of the Bible, helping you see the topic within all of Scripture. The seven key topics include: (1) **God the Father**; (2) **God the Son**; (3) **God the Holy Spirit**; (4) **Salvation**; (5) **Sanctification**; (6) **Sin and Temptation**; and (7) **Last Things**.

Additionally, you will find helpful notes throughout the Scripture leading you to study the Bible book by book, verse by verse, or topic by topic. Whether you choose one approach or all three, the *Color Code Study Bible* gives you dynamic, practical approach for regular Bible reading—and even includes generous margins for your own notes.

The *Color Code Study Bible* system will help you gain a better understanding of the Bible one idea at a time, growing deeper in your relationship with God.



Why Millions Trust the NKJV

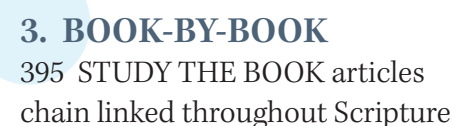
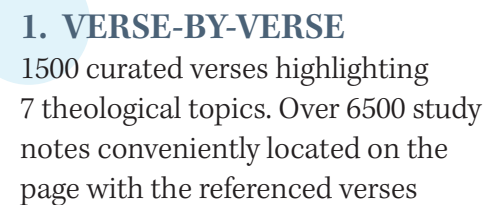
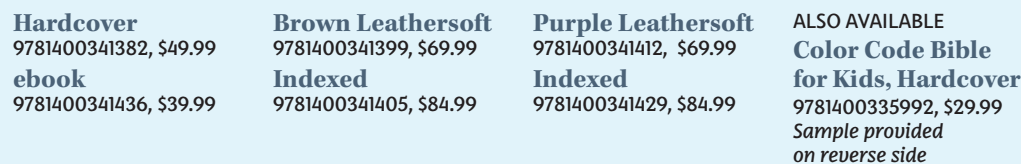
Commissioned in 1975 by Thomas Nelson, 130 international and multi-denominational Bible scholars, church leaders, and lay Christians worked for seven years to create a completely new, modern translation of Scripture that retained the purity and stylistic beauty of the King James Version. The New King James Version is faithful to the original Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic text, and also provides transparency to the recent research in archaeology, linguistics, and textual studies in the footnotes. Learn more at TheNKJVBible.com

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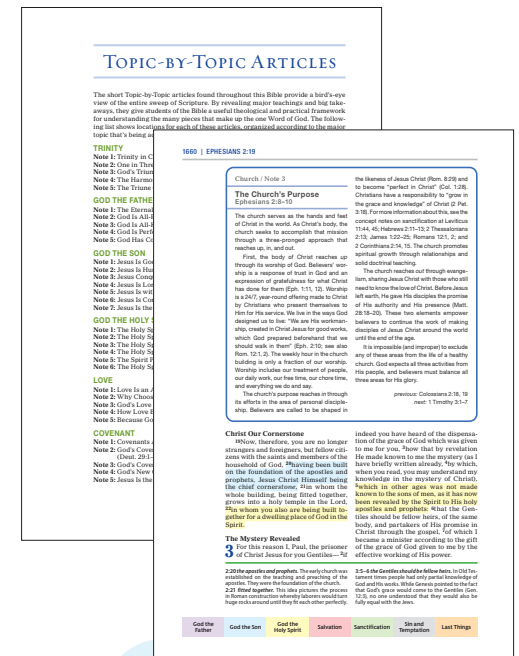
Three Ways to Study

- Easy-to-use color code system that highlights **7 core topics** of the Bible across over 1500 verses
- **Verse-by-verse** notes at the bottom of the page to gain deeper insight into each chapter
- **Topic-by-topic** notes to bring clarity on 21 key doctrinal teachings in the Bible
- **Book-by-book** notes to better understand the key ideas of each Bible book
- Generous 1.25" **note-taking space** in the outer margins
- Engaging, **full color** throughout the Bible
- **Concordance** included to facilitate study
- 8 pages of **full-color maps**

The NKJV Comfort Print Typeface was designed by 2K/Denmark as a special commission. The typeface takes inspiration from clear, distinct Aramaic limestone inscriptions of the Second Temple period and pays homage to the NKJV's rich heritage of word-for-word translation. The result is a distinctive new Bible typeface that is uncompromisingly beautiful, bold, readable at any size.



1. God the Father
2. God the Son
3. God the Holy Spirit
4. Salvation
5. Sanctification
6. Sin and Temptation
7. Last Things



- ## 2. TOPIC-BY-TOPIC
- 110 topic-by-topic articles
chain linked throughout
Scripture

How to Use

1. VERSE-BY-VERSE

Gain practical and theological insight at the verse level with 1500 curated verses highlighting 7 theological topics AND over 6500 study notes.

1658 | EPHESIANS 1:15

Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

¹⁵Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding^a being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand

in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

²²And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

By Grace Through Faith

²And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ³in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the

1:18 ^a NU-Text and M-Text read hearts.

payment, the earnest money in the long-awaited marriage of the two (Rev. 19:7), *purchased possession*. The Old Testament described the nation of Israel as God's special treasure, one He had purchased by His mighty acts of deliverance during the Exodus (Ex. 19:5). Here Paul describes Christians as a purchased possession, bought with the blood of Christ, 1:18–19 *the eyes of your understanding*. This phrase refers to spiritual understanding. To describe this,

Paul uses words that picture eyes that have been brightened with divine illumination.

1:21 *not only in this age but also in that which is to come*. The Jews of Christ's time understood the end times to be divided into two time periods, the age in which they were living and the coming age. The Messiah, called "the Coming One," would rule in the age which is to come.

2:2 *you once walked*. Walking is a biblical expression

The mystery of God's will

STUDY THE BOOK Ephesians 1:7–10

Paul encouraged the Christians in Ephesus that they could know the "mystery" of God's will (v. 9). In the Greek world a mystery referred to secret knowledge that a religious cult revealed only to members. Mystery religions throughout the Greek and Roman world required secret initiations and rituals for their members. But the biblical mystery Paul wrote about was a secret that had already been revealed and was accessible to all.

Writing from house arrest in Rome, Paul explained that the mystery of God's will, though once hidden, had now been revealed: God's long-term plan for all of creation and for humanity in particular is to "gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him" (v. 11).

The mystery of God's will—though still mysterious in its beauty and perfection—is no longer a secret. God wants to reconcile the world to Himself through Christ, and He wants us to share this good news with everyone who will listen.

MORE INSIGHT

Paul used the term *mystery* twenty-one times in his writings. Here are some notable examples:

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- Romans 16:25: The mystery has already been revealed.
- 1 Corinthians 15:51: The mystery is known and told by Paul.
- Colossians 1:26: The mystery was hidden but has now been revealed to the saints.
- Colossians 1:27: The mystery is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- Colossians 2:2: The mystery is fully known by those who know God.

next: Ephesians 4:1–6

God the Father God the Son God the Holy Spirit Salvation Sanctification Sin and Temptation Last Things

2. BOOK-BY-BOOK

Discover the unique message and context of each individual book within the Bible with 395 "STUDY THE BOOK" articles.

EPHESIANS 2:18 | 1659

spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Brought Near by His Blood

¹¹Therefore remember that you,

that pictures a believer's steady normal progress with God (Ps. 1:1). Believers are saved so that they can have a lifestyle characterized by good works (v. 10), *prince of the power of the air*. This is a reference to Satan.

2:4–7 *we were dead in trespasses*. Because of Adam's sin, the entire human race is spiritually dead. Only God can grant new life and save us from this predicament. Out of His mercy, God gave His Son for us while we were yet His enemies. He loved us long before we loved Him (1 John 4:9–10).

2:8–10 *you have been saved through faith*. The grace of God is the source of salvation; faith is the channel, not the cause. God alone saves. Salvation never originates in the efforts of people; it always

once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ Our Peace

¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, ¹⁶thus making peace, ¹⁷and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁸And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁹For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

arises out of the lovingkindness of God, *the gift of God*. We cannot do anything to earn our salvation.

2:14 *the middle wall of separation*. This was vividly portrayed by an actual partition in the temple area, with a sign warning that any Gentile going beyond the Court of the Gentiles would receive swift and sudden death.

2:15 *one new man*. In the early days of Christianity, the church was largely made up of Jews. But, under the direction of God's Spirit, the believers witnessed to Gentiles (Acts 10), who then soon outnumbered the Jewish members. As the two groups learned to work together, they became something completely new.

Christ Follower / Note 3

God Saves Us with Grace Ephesians 2:1–10

Jesus said, "I chose you" (John 15:16). Not only did Christ choose you, but your salvation is a "gift of God" (Eph. 2:8), given to you when you were still "dead in trespasses" (v. 5).

Salvation is an absolute gift of grace, unearned and undeserved. It is freely given to those who accept the calling to be a Christ follower.

However, by definition Christ followers cannot sit around admiring their holiness. No, we must actually take up the task of following after Christ and His example. We are "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Eph. 2:10). We choose to live for God. We choose to work for Him. Not in order to get the gift of salvation, but because that gracious gift has already been given.

previous: Luke 9:23
next: Philipians 4:8, 9

God the Father God the Son God the Holy Spirit Salvation Sanctification Sin and Temptation Last Things

GENEROUS MARGINS

Add your own thoughts with the 1.25" note-taking space.

3. TOPIC-BY-TOPIC

Explore the major teachings and big takeaways of the Bible through 110 topic-by-topic articles chain linked throughout Scripture—covering 21 topics!

EPHESIANS

IN SUMMARY

God has created the church from many diverse members to come together in Christ and equip one another to honor God in day-to-day life.

HOW TO STUDY EPHESIANS

Sometimes the hardest part of growing a church is keeping people together. This was especially true in the first century, when an ethnic and cultural divide separated Jews and Gentiles within the church, despite their shared faith in Christ. To create one church out of two such diverse groups was countercultural. But God supersedes culture. He had brought down the dividing wall between people groups (Eph. 2:11–14). The church could indeed become one church because of Christ, the cornerstone upon which everything else was built (Eph. 2:19–22). Christ was the Head of His church, which was His body.

Ephesians is one of Paul's four prison letters. The others are Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Paul was imprisoned in at least two prominent places—Caesarea (Acts 23:23–26:32) and Rome (Acts 28:30, 31). Most scholars believe that all the prison letters were written during Paul's house arrest mentioned at the end of Acts, though some suggest that he wrote Ephesians from Caesarea. Still others believe that Paul was imprisoned in Ephesus, but he would have had no need to write the letter if he was in that city.

In the oldest and most reliable manuscript of the Book of Ephesians, the phrase *in Ephesus* is not found. For this reason, many people have suggested that Ephesians was originally written as a circular letter to be disseminated to all the other churches in the region surrounding Ephesus. Indeed, Ephesians lacks personal references that are present in Paul's other letters, which usually had more definite audiences (e.g., Rom. 16:21–24). Also, Ephesians 1:15 and 3:2 seem to indicate that Paul had not met his readers. Since he spent three years in Ephesus, would that be likely? Certainly he could not have known all his readers personally, as some may have come to faith after his departure.

STUDY THE BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

The mystery of God's will (1:7–10)

The church is one body in Christ (4:1–6)

Put on—and use—God's armor (6:10–20)

Ephesus may have been the most prominent church in the area. The city Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia (which is modern day Turkey). It was located at the intersection of several major trade routes, which offered the city a great opportunity for growth through commerce. It contained the major seaport for the west coast of Asia and provided the merging point for roads coming from the north, east, and south.

The most famous feature of Ephesus was a temple to the fertility goddess Diana. This temple was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It served as the banking center for the entire city. The image of Diana appeared on coins and even inspired Olympic-style games.

In the cosmopolitan environment of Ephesus, a strong Jewish community existed with multiple synagogues. Though many of the Jews in Ephesus possessed Roman citizenship at this time, tension still existed because of the pagan environment of Ephesus. When Christianity spread to Ephesus, the Jews resisted. This could have accounted for the tensions between the Jews and the Gentiles in the church.

Like Paul's letter to the Romans, the first part of Ephesians is more theological in nature, while the latter part is more practical. In the theological section, Paul described God's work of salvation. He presented the work of the Father in election and the work of the Spirit in sealing the believer. He emphasized the importance of grace and faith in the salvation process.

Paul then turned to the church as the body of Christ. He spent a lengthy section describing the mystery of how Christ's body comes together in unity. In chapters 4–6, Paul demonstrated the way that being a part of Christ's body affects behavior. He dealt with issues such as walking in a manner worthy of Jesus, building up the church body by using one's gifts, and putting on the new person. He encouraged Christians to be imitators of God and then showed how that would look in the Chris-

tian home. Paul ended his letter by instructing Christians in fighting spiritual battles with spiritual weapons of warfare. His words are just as important and practical today as they were then. As you see communities around you separated by culture or ethnicity, think about how you can share the good news of the gospel. The only hope for broken humanity is the new life offered by Christ, which brings people together and forms them into one body under Christ the Head.

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Redemption in Christ

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

⁸which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both ^awhich are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹²that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

¹³In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who^a is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

1:10 ^a NU-Text and M-Text omit *both*.

1:14 ^a NU-Text reads *which*.

1:1–2 saints. In the New Testament all believers are set apart by God in Christ. *Grace to you and peace.* The salutations in the New Testament epistles follow the form of the typical first-century letter. The writer is mentioned first and the recipient next, followed by a blessing or best wishes for good health. The difference here lies in the content of the blessing: pagan letters mentioned nonexistent gods and goddesses such as Diana or Apollo; the apostles call upon the one true God and His Son Jesus Christ to bless their readers.

1:3 every spiritual blessing. God does not guarantee health, wealth, and prosperity to the New Testament believer. The blessings of Christianity are largely spiritual.

1:4–5 love. In this instance the Greek *agape* is used. That love is a love that is by choice or one's will, not just a sentimental feeling. *having predestined us.* Predestination is not a cold-hearted determinism or set fate, but rather a loving choice on God's part.

1:6 the Beloved. This title is messianic, referring to God's Son, Jesus.

1:7 redemption. The word means "buy back" or "ransom." In ancient times, one could buy back a person who was sold into slavery. In the same way, Christ through His death bought us from our slavery to sin. *His blood.* The blood of Christ is the means by which our redemption comes. The Old Testament and the New both clearly teach that there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood.

1:9 the mystery. This is not a puzzle to solve, or knowledge only for the few and the initiated, as in the mystery religions of Paul's day. In Paul's use, the word *mystery* refers to an aspect of God's will that was once hidden or obscure, but now was being revealed by God (Rom. 11:25).

1:14 the guarantee of our inheritance. The Greek word for *guarantee* can also be used to indicate an engagement ring. As Christ is the bridegroom and the church is the bride, so the Holy Spirit is the down

God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

Salvation

Sanctification

Sin and Temptation

Last Things

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Christ Follower / Note 3

God Saves Us with Grace Ephesians 2:1–10

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previous: Luke 9:23
next: Philippians 4:8, 9

Church / Note 3

The Church's Purpose Ephesians 2:8–10

The church serves as the hands and feet of Christ in the world. As Christ's body, the church seeks to accomplish that mission through a three-pronged approach that reaches up, in, and out.

First, the body of Christ reaches *up* through its worship of God. Believers' worship is a response of trust in God and an expression of gratefulness for what Christ has done for them (Eph. 1:11, 12). Worship is a 24/7, year-round offering made to Christ by Christians who present themselves to Him for His service. We live in the ways God designed us to live: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10; see also Rom. 12:1, 2). The weekly hour in the church building is only a fraction of our worship. Worship includes our treatment of people, our daily work, our free time, our chore time, and everything we do and say.

The church's purpose reaches *in* through its efforts in the area of personal discipleship. Believers are called to be shaped in

the likeness of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29) and to become "perfect in Christ" (Col. 1:28). Christians have a responsibility to "grow in the grace and knowledge" of Christ (2 Pet. 3:18). For more information about this, see the concept notes on sanctification at Leviticus 11:44, 45; Hebrews 2:11–13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; James 1:22–25; Romans 12:1, 2; and 2 Corinthians 2:14, 15. The church promotes spiritual growth through relationships and solid doctrinal teaching.

The church reaches *out* through evangelism, sharing Jesus Christ with those who still need to know the love of Christ. Before Jesus left earth, He gave His disciples the promise of His authority and His presence (Matt. 28:18–20). These two elements empower believers to continue the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ around the world until the end of the age.

It is impossible (and improper) to exclude any of these areas from the life of a healthy church. God expects all three activities from His people, and believers must balance all three areas for His glory.

previous: Colossians 2:18, 19

next: 1 Timothy 3:1–7

Christ Our Cornerstone

¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Mystery Revealed

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—²if

2:20 the apostles and prophets. The early church was established on the teaching and preaching of the apostles. They were the foundation of the church.

2:21 fitted together. This idea pictures the process in Roman construction whereby laborers would turn huge rocks around until they fit each other perfectly.

indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

3:5–6 the Gentiles should be fellow heirs. In Old Testament times people had only partial knowledge of God and His works. While Genesis pointed to the fact that God's grace would come to the Gentiles (Gen. 12:3), no one understood that they would also be fully equal with the Jews.

Purpose of the Mystery

⁸To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make all see what is the fellowship^a of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;^b ¹⁰to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, ¹¹according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. ¹³Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Appreciation of the Mystery

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,^a ¹⁵from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner

3:10 manifold wisdom. God's ways are not only "mysterious," but also varied. Angels are also learning about God's wisdom as they watch His grace working in us (1 Cor. 11:10).

3:17 Christ may dwell in your hearts. Christ actually resides or makes His home in the believer's heart.

3:21 The Purpose of the Church—The ultimate purpose of the church is to bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ. It does this as it fulfills its three purposes related to God's plan for the world.

Worship—As the church worships, it continually declares to believers and the world God's view of reality. God is the world's Creator and Sustainer. Through Jesus Christ, God has redeemed the world and provided a way of salvation for people who rebel against Him.

Evangelism—The Great Commission in Matthew 28 clearly points to evangelism as a primary purpose for the church. "Teaching" implies that there is more to evangelism than simply declaring the good news. Evangelism should lead to discipleship, which involves the work of helping the new believer reach full maturity in Christ. This happens much as a parent raises children, nurturing them in every way possible so that they can grow. Christ makes baptism an important element in this process. In baptism, one indicates that he has been identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection and that he wishes to be identified with the church.

Edification—Ephesians 4:12 points to the fact that the saints need to be built up (that is equipped) to fully do the work of the church, namely the ministry of Christ to the world. This involves making believers aware of everything they have in Christ

man, ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Walk in Unity

4 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

3:9 ^a NU-Text and M-Text read *stewardship* (dispensation). ^b NU-Text omits *through Jesus Christ*. **3:14** ^a NU-Text omits *of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

and how the Spirit's gifts enable them to serve the body of Christ effectively.

4:1 therefore . . . walk worthy of the calling with which you were called. The second half of Ephesians, like that of a number of Paul's epistles, emphasizes the behavior that should result from the doctrines or beliefs taught in the first half.

4:2 lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering. These are the attitudes that Jesus demonstrated when He was on earth (Phil. 2:5–8). These attitudes do not come naturally, but must be cultivated by the determination to place others above ourselves. Only the Spirit can empower us to treat people this way consistently.

4:3 The Person of the Holy Spirit—Many people make the serious error of thinking of the Holy Spirit as only some kind of vague principle or influence. On the contrary, the Holy Spirit is as much a person (individual existence of a conscious being) as the Father and the Son.

1. *The personality of the Holy Spirit.* The Bible speaks of the mind (Rom. 8:27) and will (1 Cor. 2:11) of the Spirit. He is often described as speaking directly to men in the Book of Acts. During Paul's second missionary journey, the apostle was forbidden by the Spirit to visit a certain mission field (Acts 16:6–7) and then was instructed to proceed toward another field of service (Acts 16:10). It was God's Spirit who spoke directly to Christian leaders in the Antioch church, commanding them to send Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:2).

2. *The deity of the Holy Spirit.* He is not only a

⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you^a all.

Spiritual Gifts

⁷But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore He says:

*"When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men."^a*

distinct being, but He is also God. As is God the Father, He too is everywhere at once (Ps. 139:7). As the Son is eternal, the Holy Spirit has also existed forever (Heb. 9:14). He is often referred to as God in the Bible (Acts 5:3-4). Finally, the Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and Son. This is seen during the baptism of Christ (Matt. 3:16-17) and is mentioned by Jesus Himself just prior to His ascension from the Mount of Olives (Matt. 28:19-20).

4:7 *grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.* Like Peter (1 Pet. 4:10), Paul taught that all Christians have a spiritual gift or gifts. The gifts

⁹(Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first^a descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

4:6 ^a NU-Text omits *you*; M-Text reads *us*.
4:8 ^a Psalm 68:18 **4:9** ^a NU-Text omits *first*.

are given sovereignly by the ascended Christ in order to build up the church (1 Cor. 12:11). Thus the body of Christ is to function like a machine in which every part is essential for getting a job done. But, unlike a machine, the body of Christ should maintain itself and build every one of its members up so that they can do good works (1 Cor. 12:7).

4:8 *When He ascended on high.* Paul quotes Psalm 68:18 to picture the ascended Messiah triumphant over Satan and his hosts, distributing spiritual gifts to His people.

4:11 *apostles . . . prophets . . . evangelists . . . pastors and teachers.* Apostles, meaning "envoys" or

The church is one body in Christ

STUDY THE BOOK
Ephesians 4:1-6

The things that unite Christians should be stronger than the things that divide them. Christians often differ about church organization, rites of worship, and minor points of theology. However, Paul begged the Ephesians to walk in a way that was worthy of their calling in Christ. Before describing the things that united the church, he told them the attitude they needed—humility. They needed to exhibit lowliness, gentleness, longsuffering, and bearing with one another in love. Without humility, unity is impossible. But humble people are free to recognize the things that unite them.

In verses 4 through 6, Paul listed what unites the church:

- The church is *one body*. Denominational labels do not make a body. The body is made up of all who have put their trust in Christ.
- The church has *one Spirit*. Paul told the Ephesians that God sealed them with the Holy Spirit when they believed (Eph. 1:13).
- The church has *one hope*. Paul described this hope as the calling to

a great inheritance as children of God (Eph. 1:18). The Ephesians once had no hope (Eph. 2:12), but now in Christ they have hope.

- The church has *one Lord* in Jesus, *one faith* as they put their trust in Him, and *one baptism*, which could refer to Spirit baptism (1 Cor. 12:13) or water baptism or both.
- The force that unites the church is *one God*.

All these factors working together unite the church, bringing all of its members together.

MORE INSIGHT

The Bible is filled with passages urging the church, the believers, to take action to show their unity in Jesus Christ. See Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:11-13; Colossians 3:13, 14; 1 Peter 3:8; and 1 John 4:12.

previous: Ephesians 1:7-10
next: Ephesian 6:10-20

¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The New Man

¹⁷This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of^a the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

²⁰But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²²that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man

4:17 ^a NU-Text omits *the rest of*.

"ambassadors," in its strict sense refers to those who saw Christ in resurrected form and were specially chosen by Christ to tell others about Him from their eyewitness accounts. Prophets delivered direct revelations from God. They foretold God's actions in the future and they proclaimed what God had already said in the Scriptures. Evangelists play a major role in bringing people into the body of Christ. Pastors function as shepherds. They feed, nurture, care for, and protect the members of the body. The Greek ties in teacher with pastor.

4:12-13 *equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.* Three stages of growth are presented here. Leaders are responsible to equip. The well-equipped saints do the work of the ministry, and the result is that the body is built up. The final goal is maturity, truth, and love.

4:16 *every joint . . . every part.* There are no insignificant parts in the body (1 Cor. 12:14-27). Anything that builds up believers and the church can be said to be edifying.

4:22-24 *you put off . . . the old man.* Paul compares the Christian life to stripping off the dirty clothes of a

People / Note 4

How We Treat People
Reveals Our View of God
Ephesians 4:25-32

How do you know if you love a certain kind of food? You eat it.

How do you know if you love a book? You read and reread it.

How do you know if you love God? You show specific care for others in your words and your actions.

God loved us by communicating with us, leading us, reaching out to us, saving us, and being with us. Immanuel, a name for Christ, means "God with us" (Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:23). God loves us by being with us and caring for us, and that's how He wants us to love others.

So we don't look at Ephesians 4:25-32 as a list of rules, but as a list of ways to show love toward others. Since love is tied to how you treat people, God made sure you know how to treat people with love.

God included instructions for how to treat people in the Law (Lev. 19) and He revealed it through the stories of the Old Testament believers. Then when He came as Jesus He gave a complete picture of how to love people. We give of our time, energy, and passion to do all that is within us to show love to the people who need it—and that's everybody. Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, and cleansed the lepers, but He also upheld the downtrodden and gave respect back to the disrespected. He took children in His arms and touched those that society rejected.

Jesus even revealed that on the day of judgment, our love for God will be revealed in how well we loved those we saw in need and what we did to help (Matt. 25:31-46). He told us to love our enemies (Matt. 5:43-48). James even goes so far as to say, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

Start with Ephesians 4:25-32 and Colossians 3:12-16. Put on love for people today.

previous: Matthew 22:36-40
next: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,²³and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,²⁴and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Do Not Grieve the Spirit

²⁵Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,”^a for we are members of one another. ²⁶“Be angry, and do not sin”:^a do not let the sun go down on your wrath,²⁷nor give place to the devil. ²⁸Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Walk in Love

5 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ²And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

³But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but

sinful past and putting on the snowy white robes of Christ’s righteousness.

4:30 the Holy Spirit of God. We should never push away, ignore, or reject the Holy Spirit. If we would remember that the One who lives in us is God’s own Spirit, we would be much more selective about what we think, read, watch, say, and do.

5:1 imitators of God. Believers are to follow the example of God’s actions. He loved us when we were still His enemies.

5:12 in secret. This verse effectively bans Christians from indulging in the modern preoccupation with examining the lurid details of evils such as the occult and other perverted practices.

5:16 redeeming the time. This means taking advantage of opportunities for service. Paul exhorts us to use as much time as is possible for advancing Christ’s purposes in this world.

rather giving of thanks. ⁵For this you know,^a that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Walk in Light

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the Spirit^a is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. ¹⁴Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light.”

Walk in Wisdom

¹⁵See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with

4:25 ^a Zechariah 8:16 **4:26** ^a Psalm 4:4

5:5 ^a NU-Text reads *For know this.*

5:9 ^a NU-Text reads *light.*

5:18 drunk with wine. Just as a person who is drunk is under the control of alcohol, so a Spirit-filled believer is controlled by the Spirit. **filled.** Filling is a step beyond the sealing of the Holy Spirit (1:13). Sealing is an action God took at the point of our new birth. The tense of the Greek word translated *filled* indicates that filling is a moment-by-moment repeatable action. To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit and is therefore crucial to successfully living the Christian life. The imperative says that the believer is to be filled with the presence of the Spirit so that he comes to know God in all His fullness, living in relationship with Him. Out of this relationship, the believer is able to manifest Christ-like character. The certainty of being filled with the Spirit may be confirmed by the believer’s faith and life. The believer must, of course, believe God’s Word that meeting the conditions will result in the filling.

the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another in the fear of God.^a

Marriage—Christ and the Church

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head

of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or

5:21 ^a NU-Text reads *Christ.*

The Spirit-filled person will exhibit the Christlike character described in Galatians 5:22–23 as the fruit of the Spirit. Included in that list are all the vibrant, attractive qualities desired by all Christians. Any Christian may be transformed by the filling of the Spirit and possess these qualities.

5:19 singing and making melody. Most believe that these words refer to three larger categories: (1) the 150 psalms in the Psalter, (2) hymns or compositions addressed directly to God, and (3) spiritual songs, hymns about the Christian experience.

5:21–22 submitting. Verse 21 completes the thought of the previous verses (vv. 18–20), which address how being filled with the Spirit manifests itself in the believer’s life. It also introduces the next

section (5:22–6:4), about how members of a Christian family should relate to each other. The Greek word for *submit* does not refer to being under the absolute control of another but to voluntarily placing oneself under the authority of another.

5:22–24 Wives, submit. Just as Christ is not inferior to the Father, but is the second Person in the Trinity, so wives are equal to their own husbands. Yet, in a marriage relationship, a husband and wife have different roles. A wife’s voluntary submission arises out of her own submission to Christ.

5:25 Husbands, love. Paul does not emphasize the husband’s authority; instead, he calls on husbands to love self-sacrificially. Husbands are to emulate Christ’s love, the kind of love that is willing to lay

God’s Will / Note 2

Our Job Is to Obey God’s Will Ephesians 5:1–21

Sometimes repairs require more work than first meets the eye. You think you need a new showerhead but you really need new plumbing in your bathroom. Or you think you need a new thermostat in your car but you really need a new radiator. In cases like these, a bunch of little things went wrong that you couldn’t see and then a symptom appeared.

This is exactly what can happen in your life.

You find yourself standing before a huge decision and you’re lost. You feel like you need God to tell you His will, but He seems silent. And when you start to seek Him, you hear Him telling you many things that have nothing to do with your main question.

When you find yourself in this situation, it’s because you’ve got much to fix before you get to the surface problem that first caught your attention.

We’re not supposed to reach a crisis point before we seek God’s will; we’re supposed

to walk as children of the light day in and day out, learning and living out what is acceptable to the Lord (Eph. 5:1–21).

“Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us”; “Walk [in] . . . light”; and “Walk . . . not as fools but as wise” (Eph. 5:2, 8, 15). An ongoing, everyday, in-and-out-of-normal-life journey of seeking and doing God’s will. We are supposed to know when we’re becoming a little too selfish or lazy or gossipy. We should feel His holy nudge when our mouths or minds or hearts get out of line.

The more fully we come to know God, the more clearly we hear His voice when He speaks. When God called Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham “rose early in the morning” (Gen. 22:3), obediently following God’s will. And when Jesus sought God the night before His crucifixion, He prayed, “Not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42).

Start with what you know of God’s will: love, obey, be merciful, live purely. When you do, chances are the finer details of God’s specific will for your life will become clear.

previous: Colossians 1:24–29

next: Romans 12:1, 2

any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰For we are members of His body,^a of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*^a ³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Children and Parents

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²*Honor your father and mother,* which is the first

down one's life for another. **Christ also loved the church.** The relationship between Christ and the church was initiated by Christ, who loved the church and gave Himself for it. The details of that relationship are described with seven images:

1. *The Shepherd and the sheep* emphasizes both the warm leadership and protection of Christ and the helplessness and dependency of believers (John 10:1–18).
2. *The vine and the branches* points out the necessity for Christians to depend on Christ's sustaining strength for growth (John 15:1–8).
3. *Christ as high priest and the church as a kingdom of priests* stress the joyful worship, fellowship, and service which the church can render to God through Christ (Heb. 5:1–10; 7:1; 8:6; 1 Pet. 2:5–9).
4. *The cornerstone and building stones* (Matt. 21:42) accents the foundational value of Christ to everything the church is and does, as well as Christ's value to the unity of believers. Love is to be the mortar which solidly holds the living stones together (1 Cor. 3:9; 13:1–13; Eph. 2:19–22; 1 Pet. 2:5).
5. *The head and many-membered body*, the church is a vibrant organism, not merely an organization; it draws its vitality and direction from Christ, the Head, and each believer has a unique and necessary place in its growth (1 Cor. 12:12–13, 27; Eph. 4:4).
6. *The last Adam and new creation* presents Christ as the initiator of a new creation of believers as Adam was of the old creation (1 Cor. 15:22, 45; 2 Cor. 5:17).
7. *The bridegroom and bride* beautifully emphasizes the intimate fellowship and co-ownership existing between Christ and the church (Eph. 5:25–33; Rev. 19:7–8; 21:9).

5:31 the two shall become one flesh. Paul quotes Genesis 2:24, which teaches that the special union between husband and wife supersedes the original family ties.

5:32 This is a great mystery. A sacred secret revealed

commandment with promise: ³*that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*^a

⁴And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Bondservants and Masters

⁵Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

5:30 ^a NU-Text omits the rest of this verse.
5:31 ^a Genesis 2:24 **6:3** ^a Deuteronomy 5:16

is that Christian marriage parallels the union that exists spiritually between Christ and His bride, the church.

6:1–4 Children, obey . . . fathers, do not provoke. This paragraph has the beautiful balance we expect to find in God's Word: children are to obey their parents, and parents are to treat their children in such a way that the children will want to obey.

6:4 Parenting—The father is the parent responsible for setting the pattern for the child's obedience in the family. The father's responsibility is set forth in two ways: First, what the father is *not to do*—"do not provoke your children to wrath." He is not to over-discipline them or rule the household in such a way that the child can only react in a rage. Second, what the father *is to do*—"but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." "Bring them up" involves three ideas:

- a. It is a continuous job. As long as the child is a dependent, the father is to be responsible for providing for the child so that he becomes what God wants him to be.
- b. It is a loving job. To "bring up" means literally to nourish tenderly; children should be objects of tender, loving care.
- c. It is a job that involves nurture and admonition. The child needs to be nurtured physically and spiritually. He also needs corrective discipline that will be effective in bringing about obedience to the Word of God (Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 29:15–17).

6:5 Bondservants, be obedient. Bondservants made up a large percentage of the population of the Roman Empire. These people were considered mere property and could be abused and even killed by their masters with no resulting investigation by the state. In the church, wealthy slave owners and their slaves broke bread together at the Lord's Table as equals.

6:6 not with eyeservice. Servants and employees should serve faithfully even when no one is looking. After all, God sees all that we do.

⁹And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also^a is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^a

6:11 the whole armor of God. This equipment is the believer's protection against evil and the devil. Paul presented the extended metaphor of the battle dress roughly according to the order in which the various pieces were put on.

6:12 For we do not wrestle. The real battle is not with human cultists, false religionists, atheists, agnostics, and pseudo-Christians, but with the demonic beings working through them.

6:14 truth. This is a reference to integrity, a life of practical truthfulness and honesty. **breastplate.** In

against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which

6:9 ^a NU-Text reads *He who is both their Master and yours.* **6:12** ^a NU-Text reads *rulers of this darkness.*

Roman times this went completely around the body and was made of hard leather or metal. **righteousness.** This is not the righteousness of Christ, which all believers possess, but the practical, righteous character and deeds of the believer.

6:15 the preparation of the gospel of peace. This may mean either that the gospel is the firm foundation on which Christians are to stand or that the Christian soldier should be ready to go out to defend and spread the gospel.

6:16 shield of faith. The Christian's shield offers

Relationships / Note 4

Attend to Details Ephesians 6:1–9

How do I best show respect to my new daughter-in-law? What if my friend chooses something unwise? What's my responsibility to bosses? How do I get my spouse to _____?

The answer to all of these relationship questions is this: Attend to the details.

God's Word is full of details.

- Since Galatians 5:20 prompts us to stop contentions, outbursts, and selfish ambitions, those behaviors aren't wise to use with daughters-in-law or spouses.
- Because Proverbs 11:14 says, "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety," you won't hesitate to give difficult counsel, selflessly risking the loss of the friendship rather than compromising your friend's well-being.
- And when you're sharing Christ with people, you'll pray hard for the right words, tone, and timing knowing that

Matthew 10:20 promises the Spirit will help with even those details.

God absolutely cares about and will guide the details of your relationships.

How will you learn the relationship details? By reading a portion of the Bible every day, and applying that passage that day. You'll learn God's words, His tone, and His motivations. Then you can imitate Him.

You'll show kindness to strangers. You'll invite people to your home and be a gracious guest in theirs. You'll make it a priority to attend to the needs of others. You love others as you would want to be loved. You'll guide your children purposefully and relate well to your supervisors (Eph. 6:1–9).

This doesn't mean you just stand around and smile. Jesus is the definition of love, and He still offended some people, turned over tables in the temple, and even had very heated—but respectful—arguments (John 8). But He loved during all of these interactions. Sometimes love requires hard words or defending someone or refusing to back down from the truth.

previous: 2 Corinthians 6:14

next: Luke 10:1–37

you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

protection against all forms of evil. Flaming arrows could not penetrate the fireproof shield of the ancient Roman soldier, nor can the assaults of Satan penetrate to the believer who places his or her faith in God. **6:17 the sword of the Spirit.** This is the only offensive weapon in the believer’s armor. This weapon is not necessarily the Bible as a whole, but the specific word that needs to be spoken in a specific situation.

A Gracious Greeting

²¹But that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; ²²whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and *that* he may comfort your hearts.

²³Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

6:21–24 that you also may know my affairs. The last verses of Ephesians reveal Paul’s appreciation of the ministry of others, especially the ministry of Tychicus (Col. 4:7). The fact that this letter does not conclude with personal greetings, as Paul’s other letters do, may indicate that this was a circular letter, one intended for a number of churches around Ephesus.

Put on—and use—God’s armor

STUDY THE BOOK
Ephesian 6:10–20

Paul spent a fair amount of time in the presence of soldiers who held him captive. He used the metaphor of being a good soldier to describe how Christians ought to live (Phil. 2:25; 2 Tim. 2:3, 4; Philem. v. 2).

In Ephesians, he expanded on a theme that Isaiah started by assigning pieces of spiritual armor to the believer (see Is. 59:17). These pieces of armor were put on through prayer (Eph. 6:18) and they provided strength in the Lord (v. 10).

The pieces of armor are:

- belt of truth (v. 14)
- breastplate of righteousness (v. 14)
- shoes of the gospel of peace (v. 15)
- shield of faith (v. 16)
- helmet of salvation (v. 17)
- sword of the Spirit (v. 17)

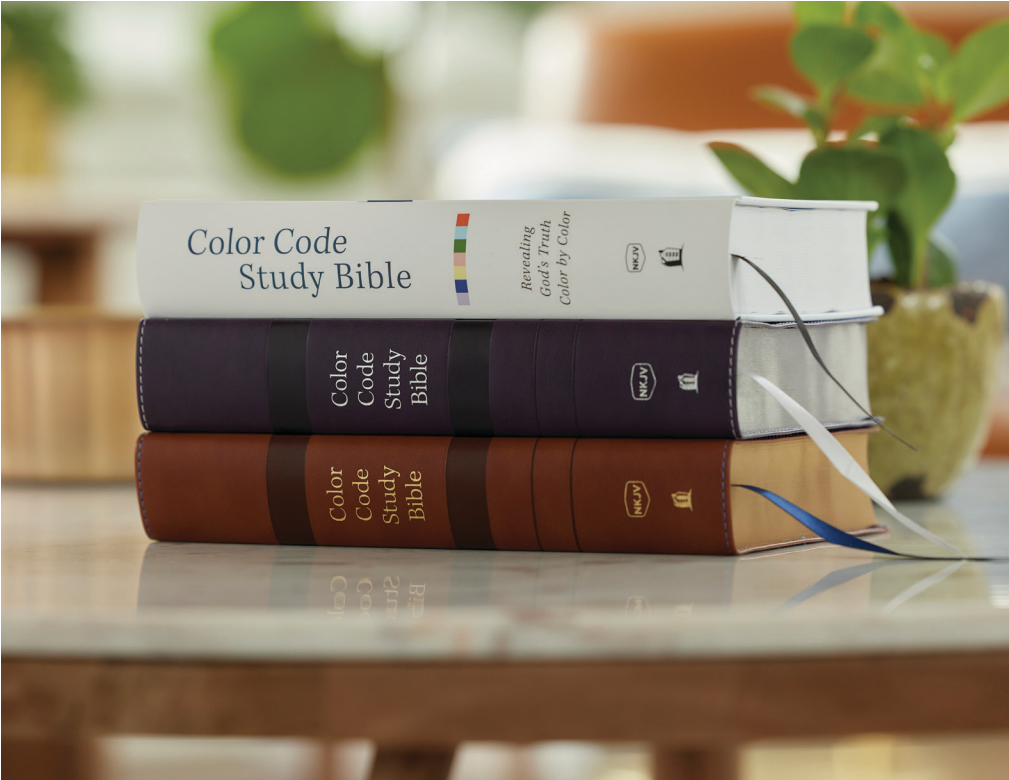
From head to toe the believer can experience God’s protection from wickedness and

from the devil himself. With the head covered by salvation, the heart by righteousness, the shoes by peace, the midsection by truth, and the entire body by a shield of faith, no part of the spiritual soldier is open to the assaults of the enemy—unless you forget to put that armor on. That’s why Paul encouraged the Ephesians to put on the “whole armor” (Eph. 6:13). Leaving the head or the heart (or any other part) exposed to the enemy is unwise and unnecessary.

MORE INSIGHT

For more insight into the reality of spiritual warfare see: 2 Corinthians 10:3–6; Colossians 2:11–15; 1 Timothy 1:18–20; 1 Timothy 6:12; and 1 Peter 5:8.

previous: Ephesians 4:1–6





Perfect for family Bible study!