

ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, February 11, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 48 | Ephesians: Who You Are & Whose You Are

Ephesians (Acts 19-20)

Ephesians is first
about you in **CHRIST** (Chapters 1-3)

imago dei Genesis 1:26-27

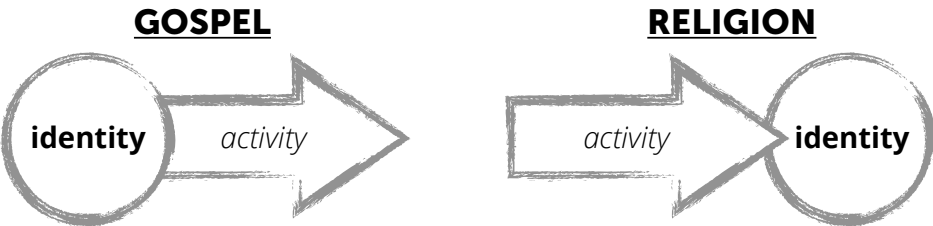
your identity — *who you/we are* — ontology 1:3; 1:7-8; 2:4-7; 2:19-20; 3:12

and then Christ in **YOU** (Chapters 4-6)

your activity — *what you/we do* — economy 2:10; 4:1-6; 4:25-27; 4:31-32

walk worthy, pursue unity 4:1-6ff

—live **FROM** your identity, not **TOWARD** it.



Have you had some Gospel Conversations? Tell us about it!
Text **“CONVERSATION”** to **833-271-8805**, then follow the prompts.
You can also text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, **“Pray for…”** followed by your request.



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE

Ephesians

Each time Paul wraps up his ministry to a church or individual in Acts whom he later writes a letter to, we'll take a week to give an overview of what he wrote to them. **This week we're in Ephesians.**

Where in Acts?	Acts 19-20
Why did Paul write them?	Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus a few years after he'd been there, while he was imprisoned in Rome. His goal was to strengthen the believers in Ephesus in their Christian faith by explaining the nature (identity) and purpose (activity) of Jesus's people, the Church. Ephesians was likely intended not only for Ephesus but churches in the surrounding region as well.
Key Verses	1:3-6 — We belong to God, he's adopted us as his own 2:8-10 — We're saved by God's grace 4:4-6 — unity of the Church 4:15 — speak the truth in love 5:22ff* — Husbands and Wives 6:10-11ff* — the spiritual armor of God *ff means "and the verses following"
Basic Outline	1: Unity and identity in Christ. (Chapter 1-3) 2: Unity and activity in the body Christ. (Chapter 4-6)
Key Topics	• Grace • Unity in Christ • Christians Relationships • Identity • Spiritual Warfare

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

life groups

Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You
Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

- Are you more concerned with the Super Bowl game or commercials?
- Do you (did you ever) have any nicknames? Who gave it to you? Why?

Priming the Pump...
• As you think back on this week's message, what one or two statements or points are most important for you to remember and why?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. Six years after Paul was in Ephesus, he wrote a letter to the church he had started there. We call that letter the book of Ephesians. In this letter, he gave instructions on how to live in a way that will make an impact on the city of Ephesus. This week we're going to look at a few of the things he wrote to help us better understand how we can live so we can have an increasing impact on the world around us.

1. Several times throughout the first 3 chapters of his letter, Paul reminded the Ephesians of who they were as followers of Christ. This new identity is not something we have to work for—it is ours because we are Christians. It means we no longer have to define ourselves by what others say, what our feelings say, or what our successes and failures say. This new identity gives freedom and security and is the foundation of the changed life Jesus give us.

The following verses paint a picture of our identity as Christians. By each passage, jot down what it says about our identity in Christ.

- Ephesians 1:3
- Ephesians 1:7-8a
- Ephesians 2:4-7
- Ephesians 2:19-20
- Ephesians 3:12

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

↓

1 | Receiving From God.

Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?

↑

2 | Responding To God.

How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?

✱

3 | Receiving From Others.

Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?

↔

4 | Moving Toward Others.

How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)

↗

5 | Going to those Far from God.

How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Ephesians 2:4-10 (NIRV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

4 But God **loves** us **deeply**. He is **full of mercy**. 5 So he **gave** us new **life because** of what **Christ** has **done**. He **gave** us **life even when** we were **dead** in sin. God's **grace** has **saved** you. 6 God **raised** us up with **Christ**. He has **seated** us with him in his **heavenly kingdom because** we **belong to Christ Jesus**. 7 He has **done** it to **show** the **riches** of his **grace** for all **time to come**. His **grace can't be compared** with **anything else**. He has **shown** it by **being kind** to us **because** of what **Christ Jesus** has **done**. 8 God's **grace** has **saved** you **because** of your **faith in Christ**. Your **salvation** doesn't **come** from **anything** you do. It is God's gift. 9 It is not based on **anything** you have **done**. No one can brag about earning it. 10 God made us. He created us to **belong to Christ Jesus**. Now we can do good things. Long ago God prepared them for us to do.

L K I I J L B E C A U S E
E L S E A T E D O N E A W
I I D E E P L Y F U L L H
, F E B S H O W C G A V E
S E A , C C N K H F , A N
H K D S P O G I R A T T K
O T J A , M M N I I D I I
W I R V , P N D S T R O N
N M B E R A N Y T H I N G
M E B D G R A C E F C , D
E H E A V E N L Y J H T O
R A I S E D L L O V E S M
C A N , T R J E S U S V C
Y H G R T C O M E V E N E

life groups

Study Guide *(continued)*

- How would you describe what a person would be like whose life consistently reflects the truths of these verses?

• Which statement about our new identity in Christ would you say is most misunderstood or overlooked by Christians?

• It's easy to forget about our new identity and the freedom and security it provides. What are some ways that could help us remember who we are as followers of Christ?

2. In the last three chapters of the letter, Paul switched his focus to helping the Ephesians live out their new identity in their relationships with each other and in the community around them. Which of Paul's instructions in the verses below do you find the hardest to carry out? Which is the easiest for you to follow?

Ephesians 4:1-2Ephesians 4:25-27Ephesians 4:31-32

• Can you identify one or two areas Paul talked about in which you've seen significant growth in your life over the years?

• Is there anything that has been particularly helpful in causing this growth?

3. The verses in above paint a picture of someone many of us would say is outside the realm of possibility of us ever becoming. But wait; there is *hope*. In order for us to consistently live this way, we need more than knowledge, willpower and effort. We also need the power that only God provides. Paul talks about how we can experience this power through the Holy Spirit in **Ephesians 5:18**. How does **John 15:4-5** help you understand what it means to depend on God's power to live the Christian life?

• Can you think of any challenges people face in tapping into God's power to live the Christian life?

• Do you have any questions about how to tap into God's power in your life?
- Close

As you close, take time to pray for each other.

Some parts of this week's Study Guide are adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.

EFCA

Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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Sunday, February 11, 2024

you are loved.

PART 48

Ephesians: Who You Are & Whose You Are

EPHESIANS (ACTS 19-20)

Wawasee community bible church

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