

BOOK SURVEY FORM

BOOK Ephesians

CHAPTERS 6

1. NUMBER OF TIMES READ 5

2. NOTES ON THE BOOK

- **Category:** New Testament letter
- **First Impressions:** It is a book that strengthens my faith and challenges me to my responsibilities. Strongly doctrinal.
- **Key Words:** “in Christ” and “walk” (KJV)
- **Key Verse:** 1:3 and 4:1
- **Literary Style:** A general letter that is punctuated by two worshipful prayers.
- **Emotional Tone:** Calm with the intention of teaching the readers and challenging them to their responsibilities.
- **Main Theme(s):** What we are because of Jesus Christ (“in Christ”) and the responsibilities that are ours because of our standing.
- **Structure:** Two main divisions separated by a “therefore.” In the first part, two prayers are recorded.
- **Major People:** Paul, the Ephesian church, evil forces, and Tychicus

REFERENCE BOOKS USED

Eerdmans Handbook to the Bible
William Hendriksen's *Ephesians*
New Bible Dictionary

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3. BACKGROUND OF BOOK

Paul had founded the church in Ephesus on his second missionary journey and left Priscilla and Aquila there to follow up with the converts. There they had an influence on Apollos's life.

At the beginning of his third mission, Paul returned and ministered in the city for a lengthy time, during which the gospel spread throughout all of the province of Asia.

Then, after Paul was imprisoned in Rome, he wrote a letter to this church. Its occasion was simply an opportunity to strengthen the church both doctrinally and practically. It was written to reinforce believers there in their opinion of themselves (in light of the other powerful religious influences in the city—e.g., the temple of Artemis) and in carrying out their responsibilities as Christians in their community.

Many references in the book have pertinence to the original readers because the background is the city of Ephesus—its culture, government, and history. (See the Book Background Study for details on these.)

4. HORIZONTAL CHART					
Who the Members of the Church Are 1:1 – 3:21			What the Members of the Church Are to Do 4:1 – 6:24		
Chosen by God	Saved by Christ	Empowered by the Holy Spirit	Responsibilities	Relationships	Conflict
1 Three doxologies separate the work of the Trinity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father (1:4–6) • Son (1:7–12) • Holy Spirit (1:13–14) 	2 The work of Christ is seen as a work of grace that we receive by faith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redemption (2:1–10) • Reconciliation (2:11–22) (The results of each are seen here.)	3 The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to make all believers of all backgrounds one in Christ. This was a mystery before.	4:1–5:21 “Therefore . . .” 1. We are to have a united walk (4:1–16). 2. We are to have an understanding walk (4:17–32). 3. We are to have a holy walk (5:1–14). 4. We are to have a Spirit-led walk (5:15–21).	5:22–6:9 The specifics are now given: 1. Husbands and wives (5:22–33) 2. Parents and children (6:1–4) 3. “Employer” and “employee” (6:5–9)	6:10–20 The reason we have difficulties in our responsibilities and relationships is our spiritual warfare. But we have God’s armor to protect us.
Paul’s first prayer (1:15–23)		Paul’s second prayer (3:14–21)		Paul’s closing greetings; Tychicus sent (6:21–24)	

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5. TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- I. Who the Members of the Church Are (1–3)
 - A. They have been chosen by God (1) (ends with a prayer)
 - B. They have been saved by Christ (2)
 - C. They are empowered by the Holy Spirit (3) (ends with a prayer)
- II. What the Members of the Church Are to Do (4–6)
 - A. Their responsibilities (4:1–5:21)
 - B. Their relationships at three levels (5:22–6:9)
 - C. Their conflict with satanic powers (6:10–20)
- Concluding remarks (6:21–24)

6. PERSONAL APPLICATION

What strikes me about this book is the close relationship between believing and acting. If I believe in Jesus Christ, then I am supposed to act in a Christian way. Because of who I am in the sight of God, certain actions are required of me in all my relationships.

Because I have been reconciled to others (chap. 2), I am to be forgiving in the same way Christ forgave me (4:32). I have not always been that forgiving and have held grudges and resentments. I will search my heart and make sure that I have forgiven everyone who may have “done me wrong” — real or imagined. Then, if necessary, I will go to these people and ask their forgiveness. As a check on myself, I will memorize Ephesians 4:32.

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3. BACKGROUND OF BOOK

4. HORIZONTAL CHART



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5. TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

6. PERSONAL APPLICATION