

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Love that Surpasses Knowledge

EPHESIANS 3:14-20

OVERVIEW

Everything—literally everything—in heaven and on earth is being united in Christ (1:10). Only when we understand who Christ is can we begin to understand who we are. We often read Paul’s letters thinking about all Scripture calls us to do. But before Ephesians calls us to do anything, it reminds us what God has done in Christ.

Our identity is not based on what we do, but who we are. Our identity is not earned and achieved but declared and received. Our identity, as Christians, is found “in Christ.” We are united to Christ—and that changes everything about us! Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus explains what we were (apart from Christ), who we are (in Christ), and then how we should live as followers of Christ, all for the glory of Christ.

APPLY // EPHESIANS 3:1-13

1. Read and apply Ephesians 3:1-13.
2. What is the mystery that has now been revealed?
3. How would you explain to someone the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament? How is the revelation made clearer now?
4. How does this passage teach us a larger vision of church than what we regularly think?
 - a. How does this view of church help us in our evangelism?
 - b. How does this view of church help us in discipling others?
 - c. How does this view of church help us prioritize gather with and serving the church?
5. Identify evidences of grace at Restoration Church where God’s wisdom is made manifest?
6. Pray that we’d continually be united in the gospel displaying the beauty of the gospel.

STUDY // EPHESIANS 3:14-21

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Ephesians 3:14-20.
2. Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations.
3. List 10 observations from verses 14-21.
4. What is Paul’s posture before God? Why?
5. In what sense is God the Father of all people?

6. What is Paul asking the Father to do? According to what? How does this point us back to what Paul has already said in the letter?
 7. What is the ministry of the Spirit in vs. 16? What kind of power is this?
 8. What is our “inner being”? (cf. 1:17-18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)
 9. According to verse 17, what is the result of being strengthened with power?
 10. What does it mean to be “rooted and grounded in love”? How is this different from simply knowing the truth?
 11. Why is it significant that we need “all the saints” to comprehend God’s love? How does gospel community help us know God’s love for us in Christ more than if we remain isolated?
 12. What does it mean that the “love of Christ surpasses knowledge”?
 13. What does Paul mean when he says he wants us to know something that surpasses knowledge?
 14. What does it mean to be “filled with all the fullness of God”?
 15. What is the connection between being knowing Christ’s love and being filled with God’s fullness?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Identify evidences of grace in each other’s lives.