

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**The Community of Love Incorruptible**

EPHESIANS 6:21-24

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 6:14-20

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-20.
2. Why is it important to remember that each piece of the armor of God is rooted in the gospel not ultimately in our effort? At the same time, what’s the danger in neglecting gospel-fueled effort to put on the armor?
3. What flaming dart (i.e. lies) does Satan often hurl at us? How does the armor (i.e. the truth of the gospel) extinguish these lies?
4. Remember Paul is addressing the church, a community, not just individuals. Why is it important that we don’t try to fight this spiritual battle alone?
5. How does prayer help us persevere? Is this often how we think about prayer, as a weapon for standing firm? Why or why not?
6. Why does Paul call us to pray for others saints? What does this look like in our church corporately? What does this look like in our lives individually?
7. Paul prays for boldness to share the gospel. How does this encourage you? Why are we often timid in proclaiming the gospel? How does gospel community help make us bold?
8. How has Ephesians 6:10-20 reminded you of the seriousness of spiritual warfare and the sufficiency of God’s Word? What practices do you need to continue or change as a result?

STUDY // EPHESIANS 6:21-24

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. As we come to the end of Ephesians, let's remember Paul's circumstances when writing the letter. Read 3:1, 7, 13 and 6:20. What strikes you about Paul's situation when penning this letter?
 2. Read Ephesians 6:21-24. What do you learn about Paul's heart for ministry? What concerns does he have for the believers he writes?
 3. Who is Paul planning to send to the Ephesians? How does Paul describe him? Why is Paul sending him to the saints in Ephesus?
 4. What does it mean that Paul wants him to "encourage your hearts"?
 5. What do you notice about Paul's final greeting?
 6. Notice the repetition of "love."
 - a. What does this tell about Paul's emphasis in this letter?
 - b. What's the significance that this "love with faith" is "from the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"?
 - c. What does it mean to "love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love"?
 7. Discuss one way Ephesians has increased your love for Jesus Christ.
- 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?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

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: How has Ephesians 6:10-20 reminded you of the seriousness of spiritual warfare and the sufficiency of God's Word? What practices do you need to continue or change as a result?