

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Our Identity in Christ**

EPHESIANS 1-6

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 6:21-24

1. Read Ephesians 6:21-24
2. In what way did the Father encourage our hearts in the gospel. Be specific.
3. How does this passage teach us about the other-orientedness of the Christian life.
4. What are some ways we try to encourage this posture through the ministries of Restoration Church?
5. Describe some ways you have given or experienced encouragement in Christ.
6. How does the incorruptible love of Christ give you courage to do the work of discipleship?
7. Spend time praying that Restoration Church would be other-oriented. Praise God where this is already happening.
8. Pray for one or two people you can reach out to and encourage in Christ within the next week.

STUDY // EPHESIANS

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 1-6.
 - a. What sticks out or captures your attention?
 - b. Identify major themes
 - c. What is the overall structure? (One way to summarize below)
 - i. Chapters 1-3 – The Position of a Christian
 1. The new life we have in Christ (1:3-2:10)
 2. The new society (the church) created by Christ (2:11-3:21)
 - ii. Chapters 4-6 – The Practice of a Christian

1. The new standards for Christ (4:1-5:21)
 2. The new relationships in Christ (5:22-6:24)
 - iii. The main idea is that Paul first describes our position in Christ before commanding our practice.
 1. Why is this order important to realize?
 2. What's the danger in separating position and practice (i.e. you can have the position without the practice)?
 3. What's the danger in reversing the order (i.e. thinking our practice gives us our position)?
 2. Identify a few lessons you have learned over during the course of our Ephesians study. Provide specific verses.
 3. Name a few ways the truths of Ephesians have increased your love and delight in Jesus. Provide specific verses.
 4. What is one way this book has equipped you to disciple others?
- 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 is your "other-orientedness"? Praise God for his grace where you are growing. Ask the Spirit to apply the gospel where you are lacking.