

# What a Way to Live

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## Ephesians

Detailed Outline from the Sermon on June 1, 2008

### **The *benefits* of knowing Christ**

God chooses us to be holy and blameless (1:4)

God adopts us to be His children (1:5)

God freely gives us grace (1:6)

Christ redeems us with His blood (1:7)

Christ forgives our sins (1:7)

God lavishes us with wisdom and understanding (1:8)

God teaches us His will (1:9)

God marks us with the Holy Spirit (1:13)

The Holy Spirit guarantees our inheritance (1:14)

God gives a spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:17)

We can live with hope (1:18)

We can live with power (1:19)

God makes us alive vs. dead in transgression (2:5)

God raises us up with Christ (2:6)

We can approach God with freedom and confidence (3:12)

### **The underlying *motives* of God**

God's **love** compels Him (1:5, 9; 2:4)

God's **pleasure** drives Him (1:5)

**Relationship** matters to God (1:17)

“I keep asking the Father to give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation so you may know Him better.”

God’s **mercy** saves us (2:4-9)

God wants to put His **kindness** on display (2:7)

He wants to show incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His kindness.

### **The *master* plan of God**

To bring all things together under Christ (1:10, 20-23)

To make us “for Christ’s glory” (1:12)

To make the church to declare the fullness of Christ (1:22-23)

To create us “to do good works in Christ” (2:10) Purpose statement of the human race.

To reconcile Jews and non-Jews to God (2:11-15)

To unite all people in Christ (2:15-16)

To preach peace to those far and near (2:17)

Peace with God, peace with themselves, peace with each other

To give access to the Holy Spirit (2:18)

Imagine people in a thirsty land not accessing wells...

To build a household (2:19-21)

No longer foreigners, aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.

To build us into spiritual dwellings (2:22)

Holy temples, walking temples, carriers for God, messengers, vessels, watering cans for holding and pouring out the word of God’s love and kindness.

## Paul's purpose

What prompted the letter?

1. Paul's unique call - To preach the gospel to non-Jews, so they can be fellow heirs and members of God's family (3:1-13)
2. To see people strengthened, empowered, rooted, established, filled and informed about the enormity of God's love (3:14-19)

Like puppies whose eyes are just starting to open up, so are these young churches and Christians.

3. To glorify Christ (3:20-21)
4. To promote unity in the church (4:1-16)

Confusion and division between Jewish and non-Jewish elements of the church.

- Differentiation of roles
- "Equipping the Saints for service."
- Body of Christ
- One body, one spirit, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

5. To teach God-honoring lifestyle (4:1-16)

- Don't let unwholesome things come out of your mouth but only things that build up.
- Be kind and compassionate.
- Be imitators of God as dearly loved children and live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.
- "Live a life worthy of your calling."
- "Grow up in all things."
- "Put off the old self; put on the new."
- In your anger do not sin.
- Do not let the sun go down on your anger.

6. To reinforce the model of self-giving love (5:21-6:9)

- Submit to one another...(5:21)
- Wives
- Husbands
- Servants/slaves

7. To arm believers for spiritual battle (6:10-20)

There's more going on than what we see and hear. This is a spiritual battle. Other forces are at play.

“Put on the full armor of God so you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.”

1. belt of truth
2. breastplate of righteousness
3. shoes – the gospel of peace
4. shield of faith
5. helmet of salvation
6. sword of the Spirit – The Word of God
7. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions.