

ALIVE IN HIM

Study Guide

INTRODUCTION

What Ephesians Is—and Isn't

1. Theologian Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote, “There is nothing more sublime in the whole range of Scripture than this Epistle to the Ephesians” (p. 18). What makes Ephesians such a vitally important portion of God’s Word?
2. What aspects of the person and work of Jesus Christ are unfolded for us in Ephesians?
3. What, according to Gloria, is “more satisfying and more enduring than knowing that we are blessed”? How do we come to discover this for ourselves?
4. Describe the variety of things Ephesians teaches us.

BLESSED IN CHRIST

The Recipients of God's Rich Grace

EPHESIANS 1:1-14

1. What are some of the implications of being “in Christ”?
2. Explain the ways in which Ephesians 1:3–14 is similar to Psalm 103.
3. What does it mean to be “sealed by the Holy Spirit”?
4. Describe the nature of the inheritance believers receive in Christ.

CALLED TO HOPE

A Prayer to Know Christ's Power and Supremacy

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

1. How does the hope of the gospel differ from worldly hope?
2. How does a right understanding of God's power motivate Christian holiness?
3. What are the powers that Paul references throughout his epistle?
4. Describe the significance of Christ filling his church.

ZOMBIES RAISED TO LIFE

God Resurrects a New Humanity

EPHESIANS 2:1-22

1. Why was the divine conception of Jesus an act of war?
2. Describe why the phrase “But God” (Eph. 2:4) is one of the most cherished phrases in the Bible.
3. What does “Christian authenticity” look like?
4. How do we walk in the ways and works marked out for us by God in Christ?

MYSTERY REVEALED

We Are Members of the Same Body

EPHESIANS 3:1-21

1. Gloria writes that God “created the universe to be the cosmic stage for the glory of his Son, and he predestined the church as the leading lady” (p. 86). How is this illuminated in Ephesians 3?
2. How is the church like a growing building? How do other New Testament passages build on this metaphor?
3. How do God’s Word and Spirit together reshape our hearts?
4. Why is fellowship in the context of Christian community vital for spiritual growth? How can the gathered church glorify God before a watching world?

WALK THIS WAY

Growing Up into Christ

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

1. How does Christian unity differ from the type of unity promoted by the world?
2. For what purpose has God equipped each believer with spiritual gifts? What responsibilities accompany these gifts, and what happens when these gifts are allowed to atrophy?
3. What is the essence of speaking the truth in love?
4. Why is sound doctrine essential for spiritual growth?

GETTING REAL

Wake Up and Put On the New Self

EPHESIANS 4:17-5:14

1. Describe the transformation that occurs in those united to Christ by faith. What aspects of a believer's life are impacted?
2. How do idols and idol worship operate in every human being apart from spiritual transformation? How does salvation in Christ change this?
3. Gloria writes, "We are to be what we are becoming" (p. 137). Explain.
4. How is a walk that is worthy of the gospel manifested in practical ways?

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

The Mark of God's Family

EPHESIANS 5:15-6:9

1. Explain the contrast Paul sets up in Ephesians 5:18.
2. How do Christian household codes differ from secular household codes?
3. In what ways does the wifely submission Paul sets forth showcase beauty?
4. Describe how biblical submission, when lived out in the contexts Paul sets forth, works to defeat the Devil and glorify God.

CRUCIFORM ARMOR

The Church's Subversive Spiritual Warfare

EPHESIANS 6:10-24

1. Why does Gloria describe the Christian's spiritual armor as "cruciform"?
2. What are the Devil's schemes, and how do believers resist them?
3. Why can Christians be confident to step up and use the spiritual weapons Paul sets forth?
4. Gloria writes, "The last Adam is better than the first Adam in every way" (p. 171). Explain her claim and why she makes it.