

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Ephesians

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1:3-14

Background: Throughout this letter to the Ephesians, Paul talked about “us” and “you.” Although what Paul said in this letter can apply to all Christians, here, Paul was usually talking about himself and the Ephesian Christians.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul praised God for the good things God had done for those he had chosen in Christ. [1:3-6]
- ☐ Those united to Christ have been redeemed through the blood of Christ. [1:7-8]
- ☐ God has blessed his people by revealing his plan to unite all things through the work of Christ. [1:9-10]
- ☐ Paul praised God because he has made his adopted children his heirs. [1:11-12]
- ☐ Those united to Christ have been sealed by the Holy Spirit to guarantee their salvation. [1:13-14]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did God the Father bless Paul and the Ephesians with? [1:3]
He has blessed them with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.
2. When did God the Father choose them in Christ? [1:4]
He chose them in Christ before the creation of the world.
3. For what purpose did God the Father choose them? [1:4]
He chose them so that they could be holy and blameless in his sight.
4. Why did God predestine them in advance for adoption? [1:5-6]
He predestined them in advance because he was pleased to do it, and so that he would be praised for his glorious grace.
5. What did they receive through the blood of Christ? [1:7]
They received redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of sins.
6. How did Christ multiply his grace to them? [1:8]
He multiplied his grace with wisdom and understanding.
7. What did God make known to all of them in Jesus Christ? [1:9]
God made known the mystery of his will according to what pleased him, and what was shown in Christ.
8. What do you think Paul meant by the word “mystery”? [1:9]
Perhaps “mystery” referred to something unknown or difficult to understand but that God explained to his people.
9. What did Paul say would happen at the fulness of times? [1:10]
God would bring together everything in heaven and on the earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-14 continued

10. What did Paul say they were given in Christ? [1:11]

They were given an inheritance.

11. Why did God appoint them as heirs? [1:12]

God did this so that they would be for the praise of his glory.

12. What seal did the Ephesians receive when they heard the word of truth? [1:13]

They received the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

13. What was the Holy Spirit a guarantee of? [1:14]

The Holy Spirit was a guarantee that they would inherit what God promised them.

Comment section:

1:15-23

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul gave thanks for the Ephesian Christians. [1:15-16]
- ☐ Paul prayed that God would reveal the fullness of Christ to the Ephesians. [1:17-19]
- ☐ Paul wrote about the greatness of Christ and his power. [1:20]
- ☐ Paul said that Christ had been exalted above all things. [1:21-22]
- ☐ Paul wrote that Christ is the head of the church. [1:23]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say he thanked God for? [1:15-16]
Paul thanked God for the Ephesian Christians in his prayers because of their faith in Jesus and their love for God's holy people.
2. What did Paul pray for the Ephesians? [1:17]
Paul prayed that the Holy Spirit would give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God.
3. Why did Paul pray that the Ephesians would have the eyes of their hearts enlightened? [1:18]
He prayed that the Ephesians would know the hope to which they were called.
4. What did Paul pray that the Ephesians would know about the power of God? [1:19]
He prayed that they would know the greatness of God's power at work in believers.
5. What did the same power that now worked in believers do in Christ? [1:20]
That same power raised Christ from the dead and seated him at God's right hand in the heavenly places.
6. In what way did God the Father seat Christ when he was seated above? [1:21]
God seated Christ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name.
7. What do you think it meant for Christ to be seated above all those things? [1:21]
Perhaps it meant that God the Father made Jesus the supreme authority over everyone and everything else that has power or authority.
8. When does Christ rule? [1:21]
Christ rules in this age and will rule in the age to come.
9. What is Christ's position of authority in the church? [1:22]
Christ is the head over all things in the church.
10. What is the church? [1:23]
The church is Christ's body.

Ephesians 1:15-23 continued

11. What do you think it means for Christ to be the “head” of the church, and the church is his “body”? [1:22-23]

Perhaps it meant Jesus is the supreme leader of the church. Perhaps it meant that the church was spiritually united with Jesus and could not exist without him. The church, like a body, consisted of many members but they all worked together as one to serve Christ.

Comment section:

2:1-10

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The Ephesian believers were dead in their sins before they knew Christ. [2:1-3]
- ☐ God made them alive in Christ so he could show them his great grace and kindness. [2:4-7]
- ☐ Salvation was by grace through faith and was a gift of God. [2:8-9]
- ☐ Believers are created to do good works which God prepares for them to do. [2:10]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What was the condition of the Ephesians before they knew Christ? [2:1]
They were dead in their sins.
2. How did the Ephesians live when they were dead in their sins? [2:2-3]
They lived according to the ways of the world and the ruler of the authorities of the air, fulfilling their evil desires, just like the rest of humanity.
3. Who do you think “the ruler of the authorities of the air” was? [2:2]
Perhaps Paul spoke about demons or Satan himself.
4. What do you think it meant that they were once “children of wrath”? [2:3]
Perhaps it meant they were objects of God’s anger. Perhaps it meant they were going to experience God’s judgment and punishment for their sins just like the rest of humanity.
5. What did God do even though they were dead in our transgressions? [2:4-5]
Because God is merciful, he made them alive in Christ.
6. What did God do after he raised believers up together with Christ? [2:6]
They were seated in the heavenly places with Christ Jesus.
7. What do you think it means that they were seated with Christ in the heavenly places? [2:6]
Perhaps it meant that they were spiritually united with Jesus.
8. Why did God raise believers up and seat them in the heavenlies with Christ? [2:7]
He did this to demonstrate the great riches of his grace and kindness toward them in Christ Jesus.
9. How did Paul say they were saved? [2:8]
He said they were saved by grace through faith.
10. Why did Paul say that grace and faith was a gift of God? [2:8-9]
Paul said that grace and faith came from God, and not from works, so that no believer could boast about how he was saved.

Ephesians 2:1-10 continued

11. What purpose did God create believers in Christ Jesus for? [2:10]
God's purpose is for believers in Christ Jesus to do good works.

Comment Section:

3:1-6

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God revealed a mystery to Paul. [3:1-4]
- ☐ The previous generations did not know this mystery, but God revealed it to the apostles and prophets of Paul's day. [3:5]
- ☐ The hidden truth was that Gentiles were fellow heirs and shared in the promise in Christ. [3:6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did Paul describe himself? [3:1-2]
He said he was a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the Gentiles, and he was a steward of grace that God had given to them.
2. How was the mystery made known to Paul? [3:3]
He said the mystery was made known to him by revelation from God.
3. What was not made known to the human race in other generations? [3:4-5]
The mystery about Christ was not made known in other generations.
4. What was the mystery about which Paul wrote? [3:6]
The mystery was that the Gentiles were fellow heirs and shared the promise in Christ Jesus.
5. Who do you think the Gentiles were "fellow heirs" with? [3:6]
Paul meant that Gentiles were fellow heirs with Jews in the body of Christ.

Comment Section:

3:14-21

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul prayed for God to strengthen the Ephesians through the Holy Spirit. [3:14-16]
- ☐ Paul prayed that the Ephesians would be able to understand the greatness of Christ's love, which is beyond human knowledge. [3:17-19]
- ☐ Paul praised God who is able to do the unimaginable and who is at work in believers. [3:20-21]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What received its name from the Father? [3:14-15]
Every family in heaven and on earth received its name from the Father.
2. What do you think Paul meant when he said, "every family in heaven and on earth" is named from the Father? [3:15]
Perhaps Paul was speaking about God's creative power in creating people. He, therefore, is the Father of all people.
3. What did Paul pray and ask God to grant to believers? [3:16]
Paul prayed that God would strengthen them with power through his Spirit.
4. In what did Paul want Christian lives to be rooted and founded? [3:17]
Paul wanted Christians to be rooted and founded in Christ's love.
5. Why did Paul want the lives of Christians to be based in love? [3:18-19]
Paul wanted this so that Christians would understand the width, the length, the height, and the depth of Christ's love, which went beyond knowledge. Paul wanted this so that Christians would be filled with all the fullness of God.
6. What did Paul say God was able to do? [3:20]
God was able to do far beyond all that a person could ask or think.

Comment Section:

4:1-16

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul urged the Ephesians to walk worthy of their calling. [4:1]
- ☐ Paul emphasized humility, gentleness, and patience as examples of how to live worthy of their calling. [4:2]
- ☐ Paul taught the Ephesians about the need to remain united in peace. [4:3-6]
- ☐ Jesus gave some to be apostles, prophets, and pastors to equip God's people. [4:7-13]
- ☐ Paul said that Christ builds up believers so that they may become mature and not act as children. [4:14-16]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul urge the Ephesian believers to do? [4:1]
Paul urged them to walk worthy of their calling.
2. What do you think Paul meant here by "walk"? [4:1]
Perhaps Paul used the word "walk" here to talk about the way a person lived.
3. How did Paul urge the Ephesians to live? [4:2-3]
He urged them to live with great humility, gentleness, patience in love, and unity in the Spirit.
4. What did Paul say about oneness in the Christian community? [4:4-6]
There is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one baptism, and one God and Father of all.
5. Why do you think Paul spoke about the oneness of many things? [4:4-6]
Perhaps Paul was speaking about the unity of all believers. Perhaps Paul wanted believers to know they had much in common with others within the body of Christ.
6. What do you think Paul meant when he said believers have "one hope"? [4:4]
Perhaps Paul meant that believers share one common expectation, that is, they will be saved from God's judgment, and they will live with him forever.
7. What did Paul say Christ did for each believer? [4:7]
Paul said that grace was given to each believer according to the measure of Christ's gifts.
8. According to Paul, what did the words "he ascended" mean? [4:9]
Paul said the words meant that he also descended into the lower regions of the earth.
9. What did Paul say about the person who descended? [4:10]
He said he was the same person who ascended far above the heavens, that he might fill all things.
10. What gifts did Christ give to the church? [4:11]
He gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

Ephesians 4:1-16 continued

11. What was the reason Christ gave those gifts to the church? [4:12]

Christ gave the gifts to equip God's holy people for the work of service and for the building up of the body of Christ.

12. For how long were the gifts put in place, to equip and build up the church? [4:13]

The gifts were put in place until such time when all believers were unified in faith and the knowledge of the Son of God.

13. Why does Christ want to build up the believers? [4:14]

Christ wants to build up the church so that believers will not act like immature children who have been deceived by every false teaching.

14. In what ways is the church to speak and to grow? [4:15]

The church is to grow in every way in Christ, speaking the truth in love.

15. Who did Paul say builds up the body? [4:16]

Christ builds up the whole body.

16. What happens when each part of the body works together? [4:16]

The body grows and builds itself up in love.

Comment Section:

5:22-33

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul instructed wives to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. [5:22-24, 33]
- ☐ Paul instructed husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church and as they loved their own bodies. [5:25-31, 33]
- ☐ When Paul spoke of the husband and wife joining together, he said this was a hidden truth, and he was speaking about Christ and the church. [5:31-32]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What instruction did Paul give wives, regarding their husbands? [5:22]
Wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord.
2. What is the husband the head of, and what is Christ the head of? [5:23]
The husband is head of the wife, and Christ is head of the Church.
3. How did Paul compare the church to wives? [5:24]
He said that as the church is subject to Christ, wives must be subject to their husbands.
4. Paul said husbands are to love their wives in what way? [5:25]
Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church. Husbands are to give themselves up for their wives, just as Christ did for the church.
5. How did Christ make the Church holy? [5:26-27]
Christ made the Church holy by the washing of water with the word.
6. What did Paul write about husbands loving their wives in 5:28?
Husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies.
7. What reason did Paul give for husbands loving their wives as their own bodies? [5:29]
No one ever hated his own body but nourishes it and treats it with care, just as Christ nourishes and treats the church with care.
8. What happens when a man is joined to his wife? [5:31]
They became one flesh.
9. What hidden truth was demonstrated by the joining of a man and his wife? [5:31-32]
The hidden truth about Christ and his church was demonstrated.

Ephesians 5:22-33 continued

10. What was the repeated instruction Paul gave to wives and husbands? [5:33]

He wrote that a husband must love his wife as himself and the wife must respect her husband.

Comment Section:

6:10-18

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul instructed the Ephesians to be strong in the Lord in their battles against spiritual enemies. [6:10]
- ☐ They battle against spiritual enemies, not human enemies. [6:12]
- ☐ Paul said they must put on the "armor of God" and stand firm and fight against spiritual enemies. [6:13-17]
- ☐ Paul instructed them to pray in the Spirit at all times. [6:18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think Paul told the Ephesians to be strong "in the Lord?" [6:10]
He told them this because they could not win spiritual battles with their own strength.
2. Why did Paul tell them to put on the whole armor of God? [6:11]
They had to put on the whole armor of God in order to stand against the schemes of the devil.
3. Who were they battling against? [6:12]
They were battling against spiritual powers and rulers of the realm of evil darkness.
4. What was Paul's instruction for standing firm? [6:14]
Paul instructed them to stand firm by putting on the belt of truth around their waist, and the breastplate of righteousness around them.
5. Which piece of the armor of God put out the flaming arrows of the evil one? [6:16]
The shield of faith.
6. What was the sword of the Spirit? [6:17]
The word of God.
7. How did Paul instruct them to pray? [6:18]
They had to pray at all times in the Spirit, persevering and watching for God's answer.

Comment Section: