

# Uniting

ALL THINGS  
IN CHRIST

*an Ephesians study*

**HUB GROUP NOTES | APRIL 11, 2021**  
**David Anderson**

## **Ephesians Overview**

We are going to spend the next 8 months studying the Book of Ephesians. It's tempting to just start by picking apart this great book verse by verse, but tonight we want to get a bird's eye view and identify the larger themes.

We are going to begin by reading the whole book together. As we read it together:

- Pay attention to the differences between chapters 1-3 and 4-6.
- See if you can identify the theme that Paul presents in chapter 1.
- What other themes do you see throughout the Epistle?

## **Read the whole Book of Ephesians**

**LEADERS:** Have 2-3 of your best readers take turns reading a chapter. It takes about 8 minutes. Don't have everyone read it because some aren't good at reading and the whole group will worry about when their turn is and won't pay attention to the text.

### **1) What are the differences between chapters 1-3 & 4-6?**

**LEADERS:** Ephesians 1-3 focuses on what Christ has done and who we are in Christ. Ephesians 4-6 focuses on how we are to walk in light of who we are in Christ.

In the first half of Ephesians (1-3) there are 40 indicative verbs and only one imperative; 40 statements of what God has done for us in Christ and only one command (2:11-"remember").

But starting in chapter 4 everything changes. There are 40 imperatives, 40 commands to us in chapters 4-6.

**2) What verses do you think summarize the whole theme of Ephesians?** (Hint: look in chapter 1.)

**LEADERS:** Turn to the theme verses in Ephesians 1:9-10: "Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

This phrase where we translate "unite" or "head up" means to bring everything together under the control of one person, to gather everything together, unify and make into one. There is only one Person that can bring harmony to all the discord in our world. We are a divided culture and people, but God's perfect plan has been revealed and has come to a climax in Jesus. The theme of Ephesians is Christ's death and resurrection has brought heaven & earth together to unify everything that has been torn apart and alienated through sin.

**3) What other themes do you see throughout the Epistle?**

**4) On Sunday, Dave Anderson asked us to do 3 things as we walk through this series:**

- PRAY for unification. I believe the theme of Ephesians is UNITING ALL THINGS IN CHRIST. We are ambassadors of this unification. The Holy Spirit will free us from strife, jealousy, rivalry and selfishness and launch us so that His unity can permeate every aspect of our stories and lives together.
- READ through Ephesians every week. Our children's pastor, Jessica Lee, is having our children memorize Scripture during this season. Similarly we (adults) can take a little time to get Scripture into our minds. I just read through the whole book again and it takes about 6-7 minutes or you can read chapter 1 on Monday, chapter 2 on Tuesday, etc. all the way to Saturday and be all ready for the message on Sunday. This familiarity with Ephesians will allow for greater retention and impact.
- IDENTIFY one area in your life you would like Jesus to "unify" and share that with a trusted person. I'm convinced that God wants His Gospel and His Church to bring unity to some very divided places in our hearts, relationships and culture.

**Which of these assignments feel the most difficult for you right now? How can we pray for you?**

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2021 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people - the Nyamwezi - by 2030.

Children's Pastor Jessica Lee is asking us to PRAY ABOUT volunteering to assist with this year's Vacation Bible School, happening June 14-18. If this grabs your heart and you'd like to know more, contact her at [jessica.lee@churchofthependoor.com](mailto:jessica.lee@churchofthependoor.com).