

Ephesians 1:15-23 study guide #2

A person's reputation is something to be carefully protected. It takes time to develop a good one, but can quickly be ruined by our careless words, activities or actions. Last week we studied **Ephesians 1:1-14**, we saw Paul's letter was written to the believers in Ephesus who lived their lives focusing on faithful service to their Savior. As we studied those 14 verses we saw that God, by his own purpose and will, sought a relationship with men and women. God has supplied all that is necessary for our forgiveness and restoration. We must simply believe and accept the riches of his grace.

Pray and ask God to open your eyes and your heart to all he has for you as you hear from him today. It is my suggestion that you print out the section of scripture to be studied each week so you can make notes and mark key words or phrases. Number a separate sheet of paper for your answers.

Now we will look at Paul's thanksgiving and prayer. **Eph. 1:15-23**

1. In verse 15-16 Paul clearly states how he feels about the reputation that he has heard about the believers in Ephesus. Highlight the text to show what he has heard.
2. This is no little thing. Does your reputation of love for God and love for others go before you? When you are described is this a quality that would be named?

*Jesus speaking to his disciples said in **John 13:34-35** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

3. The command to love was not new. **Look up Lev. 19:18 and Deut. 6:5** and write them in your own words.
4. To love as Jesus loved would require sacrifice and purposeful living. To what extent did Jesus go to display his love for us?

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Read **John 15:8-17** Underline the extent of ultimate love.

John 15:8-17 *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

5. According to **Jn.15:8** what happens when we love as Jesus loved?
6. What does Paul say it caused him to do when he heard reports about them?
Eph.1:16
7. Is thinking about someone and praying for them the same thing? Which one would you want done for you?
8. How much time are you really spending praying for others?
Praying for those who are following your spiritual lead?
9. Think of a believer that you love dearly; now write a short prayer for them.

What did you ask God to give them or to do for them?

10. Highlight the text that states Paul's prayer for them. Now write it as a list on your answer sheet(or this sheet). Paul is praying that God would ...

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11. Now go back and read **verses 17-19** and see if there was anything you would like to add to your prayer. Paul knew what these believers really needed. Paul prayed for them in a way that could move mountains and slay the giants they faced.
12. Looking back to **verse 18** for a moment, what is the glorious inheritance? **Read Rom. 8:29 and 1 Jn. 3:2** to add to your understanding. **Underline the glorious inheritance in these two verses.**

***Rom. 8:29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

***1 Jn. 3:2** Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

13. How do we become conformed to Christ's likeness?

You are doing step one right now. What is step two?

Underline it in the verses below **James 1:19-25 and Romans 12:2**

***James 1:19-25** Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

***Romans 12:2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

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14. By what power does Paul say God is at work in us and is available to us as believers? **Eph. 1:19**

15. Are you availing yourself of this power?
If someone offered to give you 100 million dollars and mailed you a letter and told you about it but you did not open the letter but left it lying on the coffee table gathering dust.

Would you be rich?

Would you be living like a rich person or still living as one with limited resources?

16. Are you living in the light of all God has done for you?

17. God has raised Christ from the dead to the position of authority. What is that place of authority? **Verse 20**

18. What is Christ the authority over, according to **verse 21-22**?

First highlight or underline in the text then write it out in a list on your answer sheet (or here). Christ is the ultimate authority over the world and...

19. How does knowing this truth help you live with confidence?

20. How can a person who has trusted Christ for salvation and had their sins forgiven now live differently than they had before?

Spend a few minutes reading **Romans 8** you will be glad you did. Make a list of all you see concerning your salvation and your spirit-filled life.

21. Write **Romans 8:37-39** in your own words and personalize it.