

Outline of the Book of Ephesians

The book of Ephesians, written by the Apostle Paul, provides profound theological insights into the nature of the church, the blessings of salvation, and practical guidance for Christian living. Below is an exhaustive outline of Ephesians, highlighting the dangers facing believers.

I. Introduction (1:1-2)

- A. Salutation (1:1-2)
 - 1. Paul's apostleship by the will of God (1:1)
 - 2. Greeting to the saints in Ephesus (1:2)

II. Theological Foundation: The Believer's Position in Christ (1:3-3:21)

- A. Spiritual Blessings in Christ (1:3-14)
 - 1. Praise for spiritual blessings (1:3)
 - 2. Election and predestination (1:4-6)
 - 3. Redemption and forgiveness (1:7-8)
 - 4. Revelation of God's will (1:9-10)
 - 5. Inheritance and the Holy Spirit's seal (1:11-14)
- B. Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom (1:15-23)
 - 1. Thanksgiving for the Ephesians' faith and love (1:15-16)
 - 2. Prayer for wisdom and revelation (1:17-19)
 - 3. Christ's exaltation and authority (1:20-23)
- C. From Death to Life (2:1-10)
 - 1. Former state: dead in trespasses and sins (2:1-3)
 - 2. God's mercy and grace: made alive in Christ (2:4-7)
 - 3. Salvation by grace through faith (2:8-10)
- D. Unity in Christ (2:11-22)
 - 1. Former alienation and new reconciliation (2:11-13)
 - 2. Christ's peace: breaking down the dividing wall (2:14-18)
 - 3. Members of God's household (2:19-22)
- E. Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles (3:1-13)
 - 1. Revelation of the mystery (3:1-6)
 - 2. Paul's role in proclaiming the mystery (3:7-9)
 - 3. The manifold wisdom of God (3:10-13)
- F. Paul's Prayer for Strength and Insight (3:14-21)
 - 1. Prayer for inner strength (3:14-16)
 - 2. Christ's dwelling through faith and comprehension of love (3:17-19)
 - 3. Doxology: God's power and glory (3:20-21)

III. Practical Exhortations: The Believer's Walk in Christ (4:1-6:20)

- A. Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ (4:1-16)
 - 1. Call to live a life worthy of the calling (4:1-3)

2. One body, one Spirit, one hope (4:4-6)
 3. Diversity of gifts for building up the body (4:7-13)
 4. Maturity and stability in faith (4:14-16)
- B. The New Life in Christ (4:17-32)
1. Instructions to put off the old self (4:17-19)
 2. Renewed mind and new self (4:20-24)
 3. Practical exhortations: truthfulness, anger, work, speech (4:25-32)
- C. Imitators of God (5:1-21)
1. Walk in love, light, and wisdom (5:1-2)
 2. Avoidance of immorality and impurity (5:3-7)
 3. Living as children of light (5:8-14)
 4. Walking wisely and filled with the Spirit (5:15-21)
- D. Instructions for Christian Households (5:22-6:9)
1. Wives and husbands (5:22-33)
 2. Children and parents (6:1-4)
 3. Slaves and masters (6:5-9)
- E. The Armor of God (6:10-20)
1. Strength in the Lord and His power (6:10-12)
 2. Putting on the full armor of God (6:13-17)
 3. Praying in the Spirit and for all the saints (6:18-20)

IV. Conclusion (6:21-24)

- A. Final Greetings (6:21-22)
1. Tychicus's mission to inform and encourage (6:21-22)
- B. Benediction (6:23-24)
1. Peace, love, and grace to the brethren (6:23-24)

Dangers Facing the Believer Highlighted in Ephesians

1. Forgetting Spiritual Blessings and Identity in Christ (1:3-14):

- **Danger:** Neglecting to remember the spiritual blessings and identity given in Christ, leading to insecurity and doubt.
- **Application:** Regularly meditate on the spiritual blessings and identity in Christ, fostering gratitude and assurance.

2. Lack of Spiritual Wisdom and Insight (1:15-23):

- **Danger:** Operating without spiritual wisdom and understanding of God's power and purposes.
- **Application:** Pray for spiritual wisdom and insight to know God better and comprehend His power at work in believers.

3. Living in the Past (2:1-10):

- **Danger:** Living as if still dead in trespasses and sins, underestimating the transformative power of God's grace.

- **Application:** Embrace the new life in Christ, living out the transformation brought by grace through faith.

4. Division and Disunity (2:11-22):

- **Danger:** Allowing divisions to undermine the unity that Christ has established in the church.
- **Application:** Work towards reconciliation and unity, remembering that all believers are members of God's household.

5. Misunderstanding or Neglecting Paul's Ministry and Message (3:1-13):

- **Danger:** Misunderstanding or neglecting the significance of the mystery of Christ revealed through Paul's ministry.
- **Application:** Appreciate the revelation of the mystery of Christ and the inclusivity of the gospel for all people.

6. Weakness and Spiritual Exhaustion (3:14-21):

- **Danger:** Experiencing spiritual weakness and exhaustion without tapping into God's strength and love.
- **Application:** Pray for inner strength, Christ's indwelling, and comprehension of His love to be filled with all the fullness of God.

7. Immaturity and Instability (4:1-16):

- **Danger:** Remaining spiritually immature and unstable, susceptible to deception.
- **Application:** Strive for unity, maturity, and stability in the faith, utilizing spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ.

8. Old Lifestyle and Conduct (4:17-32):

- **Danger:** Falling back into old, sinful habits and conduct.
- **Application:** Put off the old self and embrace the new self, living a life of truth, righteousness, and holiness.

9. Immorality and Impurity (5:1-14):

- **Danger:** Engaging in immorality, impurity, and darkness.
- **Application:** Live as imitators of God, walking in love, light, and wisdom, avoiding deeds of darkness.

10. Foolishness and Drunkenness (5:15-21):

- **Danger:** Living unwisely and indulging in drunkenness.
- **Application:** Walk wisely, making the most of every opportunity, and be filled with the Spirit, not with wine.

11. Disorder in Household Relationships (5:22-6:9):

- **Danger:** Dysfunctional relationships within the household, leading to conflict and discord.
- **Application:** Follow God's design for relationships, fostering mutual love, respect, and submission.

12. Spiritual Warfare (6:10-20):

- **Danger:** Being unprepared for spiritual battles, leading to defeat and vulnerability.
- **Application:** Put on the full armor of God, relying on His strength and protection, and engage in constant prayer.

Well-known Passages from Ephesians

[Ephesians 1:4-10 ESV] In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 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.

[Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

[Ephesians 4:29-32 ESV] Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

[Ephesians 5:22-28 ESV] Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

[Ephesians 6:10-18 ESV] Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of

the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Conclusion for Ephesians

By understanding these dangers and applying Paul's teachings, believers can safeguard their faith, live out their new identity in Christ, and foster a community marked by unity, maturity, and love.