

EPHESIANS

A Little Bit About Ephesus

1. Major city and cultural center; economic significance
2. Demographically diverse / a melting pot

A Little Bit About Ephesus

3. Religiously pluralistic; lots of religion where a claim of exclusivity would not be received well (Acts 19:23-41)

Why Ephesians?

- 1. The culture of Ephesus is relevant
- 2. The Church at Ephesus is relevant
- 3. I sensed the Lord's direction

^{1a} Paul (person), an apostle (purpose) of Jesus Christ by the will of God (planner),

To the saints who are in Ephesus (people)

Ephesians 1:1-3 (NKJV)

Lessons from Ephesians

1. God purposes a person for a people according to His plan (v1)

¹¹Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: **the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.** ¹²Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT)

^{1b} To the **saints** who are in Ephesus, and **faithful** in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 1:1-3 (NKJV)

Lessons from Ephesians

- 1. God purposes a person for a people (v1)
- 2. God sees us differently than we see ourselves (v2, Rev 2:1-7)

^{1b} To the **saints** who are in Ephesus, and **faithful** in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 1:1-3 (NKJV)

The Church at Ephesus

- 1. Boldly contended for the faith and the gospel (Acts 18:24-28, 19:8-10)
- 2. Their faith disrupted societal and cultural norms (Acts 19:23-41)

The Church at Ephesus

3. The leadership of the church loved God and each other deeply (Acts 20:13-38)

4. Despite the love for God, the church lost its way (Rev 2:1-7)

¹“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands:

Revelation 2:1-7 (NLT)

²“I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars.

Revelation 2:1-7 (NLT)

SCRIPTURE

³You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

Revelation 2:1-7 (NLT)

SCRIPTURE

⁴“But I have this complaint against you. **You don’t love me or each other** as you did at first!

Revelation 2:1-7 (NLT)

SCRIPTURE

⁵**Look how far you have fallen!** Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

Revelation 2:1-7 (NLT)

SCRIPTURE

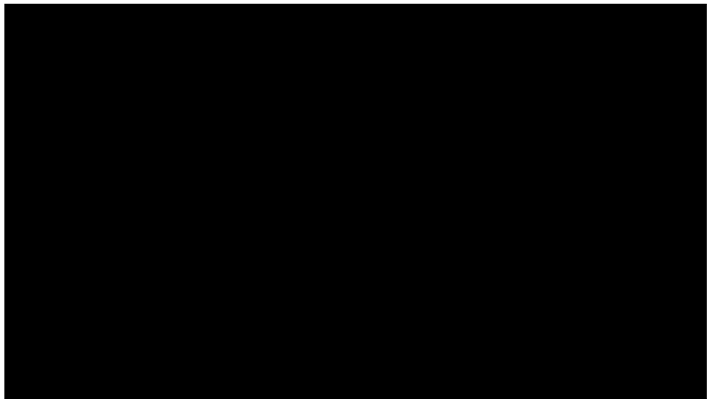
⁶But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do.

Revelation 2:1-7 (NLT)

SCRIPTURE

⁷“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:1-7 (NLT)



²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:1-3 (NKJV)

Lessons from Ephesians

3. How we treat people matters (v2)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Ephesians 1:1-3 (NKJV)

Lessons from Ephesians

3. How we treat people matters (v2)

4. Make Christ present in everything we do (v1-3)

Causes for Doubt

Pastors: What do you believe makes people doubt Christian beliefs? Select all that apply.
General population: Do any of the following cause you to doubt Christian beliefs? Select all that apply.
Base: general population ages 13+

● Pastors ● All Christians ● Practicing Christians ● Nonpracticing Christians ● Other faith ● No faith



Jesus is the answer.
