

## PAUL & HIS TEACHING

**Lesson 25 Ephesians 6:21-24 – Grace, Faith, Peace, & Love** (*Theology: Review these themes through the book of Ephesians.*)

- **Goal:** In this lesson the class will review four themes of Ephesians: Grace, Faith, Peace and Love, tracing them through the whole book.
  
- **Applications:** (1) In each case, what God provides becomes something we live out. (2) For this reason, we need to be grounded in God’s provision, before we can hope to follow his marching orders.
  
- **Suggestions for teaching:**
  - ***The suggestions below will allow you to approach Ephesians SLOWLY and contextually, and proceed SLOWLY through this study. Most times given are approximate. DON’T WORRY ABOUT “FINISHING ON TIME.” DO AS MUCH OF THE FOLLOWING AS MAKES SENSE.***
  
  - *Please familiarize yourself with the student sheet for this lesson, so you can guide the class in using it (you may choose either the generic or the detailed option). If using the detailed option, please ask students for suggestions of what the class might write, after discussing a question. (Don’t assume they all can distill a discussion into a sentence. Some will get hung up in confusion if they don’t know what to write.)*
  
- **Part One: Paul’s final words**
  - Read **Ephesians 6:21-24**
  - ***Who is Tychicus?***
  
  - ***Why do you think Paul didn’t write his personal news in Ephesians, but sent it by way of a messenger?***
  
  - Name the themes of Grace, Peace, Faith, and Love in these verses. Identify these with the opening lines of the letter (**Eph. 1:1-2**) and explain that you will be referring back to earlier passages in Ephesians to remind us how important these are in Paul’s thinking.

➤ **Part Two: GRACE**

- **Define “GRACE”:**
  
- **What “gifts of grace” are ours in Christ? Where do you find these listed in Ephesians?**
  - **Eph. 1:3-14** (...every spiritual blessing...)
  
  - **Eph. 2:4-10; 18-19** (position, inclusion)
  
  - **Eph. 4:11-12** (officers in the church)
  
  - **Eph. 6:13-17** (armor of God)
  
- **Why do we say these gifts are “undeserved”?**
  - **Eph. 2:1-3** (children of wrath)
  
  - **Eph. 2:8-9** (not by works)
  
  - **Eph. 2:11-12** (aliens and strangers)
  
- **In what ways are we instructed to show grace to others?**
  - **Eph. 4:32** (“be ye kind...”)
  
  - **Eph. 5:21** (mutual submission)

➤ **Part Three: PEACE**

- **Define PEACE:**
  
- **In what ways did God make peace? How did he make peace? For what purpose?**
  - **Eph. 2:13-16** (“he is our peace” – Jews & Gentiles)
  
  - **Eph. 2:18** (approaching God)
  
  - **Eph. 2:19-22** (built into a temple)

- **How do we practice peace?**
  - **Eph. 4:1-3** (*keep the bond of peace*)
  - **What does this look like in marriage?**
  - **...in the family?**
  - **...in the workplace?**
  - **...in the church?**
  
- **Part Four: FAITH**
  - **Define FAITH (saving faith):**
  
  - **How does faith begin?**
    - **Eph. 2:1; 8-9** (*gift of God, because we were DEAD*)
    - **Eph. 1:13** (*hearing the gospel*)
  
  - **What is true of a person when he or she comes to faith in Christ?**
    - **Eph. 1:3ff** (*every spiritual blessing*)
    - **Eph. 1:13-14** (*sealed with Spirit*)
    - **Eph. 2:4-6** (*alive, raised, seated*)
    - **Eph. 2:19** (*part of a community, or family*)
    - **Eph. 3:17** (*Christ dwells in our hearts*)

- **What effect does faith in Christ have on our thinking?** (i.e., remembering the *RIGHT* things; learning to think God's thoughts)
  - **Eph. 1:18-20** (God's-eye view of universe)
  - **Eph. 3:12** (attitude towards God – Father, not judge)
  - **Eph. 4:17-24** (new self, renewed mind)
- **What effect does faith in Christ have on our actions?** (i.e., what actions flow out of faith in Christ?)
  - **Eph. 2:10; 6:5-9** (perspective on work)
  - **Eph. 5:21** (motivation for submission)
- **Part Five: LOVE**
  - Love as God's motive for saving us at all:
    - **Eph. 2:4-10**
    - **Eph. 5:1**
  - **What is Christ's attitude toward the church?**
    - **Eph. 3:14-19** (love that surpasses knowledge)
    - **Eph. 5:2** ("...as Christ loved us...")
    - **Eph. 5:25** ("...as Christ loved the church...")
  - **How do we live lives of love?**
    - **Eph. 3:17** (our roots)
    - **Eph. 4:15-16** (speaking, built up)
    - **Eph. 5:1-2** (imitators)
    - **Eph. 5:25, 33** (husbands)
- **Conclusion: End with doxology in 3:20-21, and an encouragement to students to reread the book of Ephesians on their own now!**