

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Ephesians 1:1-14

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Sunday, February 19, 2017

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. Pastor John said that the Church illustrates the Gospel. How do you see this happening?
2. Why would Pastor John pray that the Spirit would illumine our minds when we come to scripture?
3. Several verses make mention of God's purpose, plan, and will. Considering these phrases and words in the context of the whole passage how would you define God's purpose? What has God done in the past? What is he doing in the present? And where is it all going? What is the end result?
4. In considering Paul's introduction in the letter to the Ephesians, are you saint? How does the world define the word 'saint' and how do you fit that definition?
5. How does Romans 12:2 relate to the true meaning of 'saints'?
 - a. How can we avoid being conformed?
 - b. According to this verse, how can we be transformed?
 - c. What do you think this process involves?
6. The whole passage appears to be an unfolding of "every spiritual blessing in Christ." List the various "blessings" that Paul mentions in these verses. Are there any "blessings" here that you were not previously aware of? Are there "blessings" that you are not sure how to define?
7. Note the phrase "heavenly realms" in verse 3. This phrase is used 5 times (1:3, 20: 2:7; 3:10; 6:12) and it is only found in Ephesians. What did Paul mean by heavenly realms? Is this the same as heaven? How would you define it?

8. Note the reiteration of “in Christ” or “in him.” What does this tell us about the place of Jesus Christ in God’s plan of salvation? How is Jesus described in verse 6? What does this remind you of from the earthly ministry of Christ recorded in the gospels?

9. How do you respond to the idea that God has "adopted" you (vs.5)? What does it mean to enjoy the sonship provided by God? Refer to biblical stories that relate to inheritance.

10. What does the word "mystery" mean in this context (vs. 9)? How does this differ from the way we normally think of a mystery? b.) How does this change / affect your view of the mysteries of God in Colossians 1:26-27; Colossians 2:2; and Colossians 4:3 and discuss the following:

11. Read 1 John 3:1-3 in the NKJV and discuss the following in regards to 'mysteries' and to the saints being called “sons” of God:
 - a. How does this passage complement the passage found in Ephesians 1:1-14?
 - b. In this passage, what is the mystery that is to be revealed?
 - c. What is the eternal hope that is given in this passage?

12. As believers we are granted forgiveness of sins (vs. 7). In our society today, the definition of sin seems to be a moving target, ‘sin is in the eye of the beholder’ so to speak. How would you define sin to a non-believer? Reflecting on your own life, describe your personal grief when you have hurt someone? How does this compare when relating to Jesus?

13. Note the phrase “to the praise of his glorious grace” or “to the praise of his glory.” What does this phrase tell us should be response for all that the Father has done for us in Christ through the Holy Spirit?

14. The passages authored by Paul were a result of his concern for the health of the young church. How might he start his communication to the church of today? Would the key message of grace and peace be predominant in his message to the church of 2017?