

## Study Questions - Week 1

(Doug will be off next Sunday but then he will resume the study of Ephesians 4-6 on July 3) **Please read 4:1-6 which will facilitate our new series on “The Worthy Life”.**

**A. Verse 1** is about walking in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

- Why would Paul describe the life of a Christian as a “walk” and not as a sprint, a run or even a jog?
- Walking is the act of shifting your weight from one leg to the next. If we are to live a worthy life what are the two legs which must be kept active and in balance?
- There are two “callings” in this verse. One is God’s calling of the believer to salvation (chapters 1-3); the second is the believer’s calling to live a worthy life (chapters 4-6). Why is it so important that both be understood?
- Why is living a worthy life the only one consistent with a God centered Gospel? In order to answer this question one must think through some of the key concepts in Ephesians 1-3.

**B. In verses 2-6**, Paul moves into the theme of unity in community. Let’s explore that now.

- How is Christian unity different than uniformity? Why would Satan want uniformity? Why would God want unity?
- What in these verses would support that unity is a fact – not a feeling?
- What in these verses would lead you to the idea that unity is an attitude – not a technique?
- Beginning in verse 2 Paul lists a series of qualities essential to preserving unity. Why would **“humility”** (verse 2) be the first of the qualities mentioned?
- Paul also mentions **“gentleness”** in verse 2. If gentleness is strength under control what are some of the opposites of being gentle?
- The third quality is **patience** which is the ability to put up with prolonged irritation. Why is this quality so important in order to preserve unity in the church?
- The fourth quality is **tolerance** which is the willingness to accept disagreements. The opposite is to think war and fight over disagreements. What are some of the “hot buttons” in churches?
- Why would preserving unity to be so fundamental to a life that is worthy?

# EPHESIANS

A GOD  
CENTERED  
GOSPEL

## *Expanding Your Expectations*

(This is the 10th in a series of messages entitled *The God Centered Gospel*)

### *Ephesians 3:14-21*

At the heart of a God centered Gospel is a sovereign God and His powerful grace. He makes alive the spiritually dead. Furthermore, relationships “deadened” by centuries of hatred and discrimination come alive with His shalom. Even suffering is redeemed by His powerful grace so that the mighty angels and spirit beings in the heavenlies praise Him for His ability to sustain us.

In this message (which contains one of the greatest prayers ever prayed) we learn two truths: First, God desires to **enlarge our experience** so that our Lord Jesus might exert a progressively greater and more intense personal influence in our souls (3:14-19). Second, God desires to **expand our expectations** (3:20-21). We can’t even imagine what God can do. His power is so great that we don’t even know what we don’t know.

### *Idea*

God desires to enlarge our experience of the power and depth of His grace so that we can expand our expectations of what His powerful grace can do. There are no limits to what God can do because there are no limits to God!

### *Lessons*

#### I. \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 14-19)

- A. To be a world changer, an inner \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ comes first (vv 14-17a)

1. This strengthening will keep us from losing \_\_\_\_\_
2. This strengthening keeps \_\_\_\_\_ preeminent (cf John 16:13-14)

B. We must also grasp the \_\_\_\_\_ dimensions of Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 17b-19a)

C. Finally \_\_\_\_\_ nothing on the \_\_\_\_\_! (v 19b)

#### II. \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 20-21)

GOD is \_\_\_\_\_

GOD is able to \_\_\_\_\_

GOD is able to do what we \_\_\_\_\_

GOD is able to do what we ask or \_\_\_\_\_

GOD is able to do \_\_\_\_\_ that we ask or imagine

GOD is able to do \_\_\_\_\_ than all we ask or imagine

GOD is able to do \_\_\_\_\_ more than we ask or imagine

### **Personal Questions:**

1. What is God trying to do in your life that is so big you can hardly imagine it?
2. What is God trying to get you to do with your life that is so amazing you have barely begun to dream it?
3. What is God leading this community of believers to do that is so daring we can scarcely fathom it?