

Discussion Guide to Start Ephesians

1. Take a minute or two to scan the first chapter.
 - a. Does the author identify himself?
 - b. Does he name the audience for this epistle?
 - c. What does he bring up first?
 - d. How would you characterize the contents of chapter 1?

2. Now take a couple of minutes to scan the last chapter.
 - a. Does the author mention any people by name? Who?
 - b. What is said about these people?
 - c. Does Paul give a shout out to any individuals among the saints at Ephesus by name? See for example chapter 16 of Romans.

3. What false teaching or doctrinal controversy is confronted in the epistle?

4. Who are the bad guys (antagonists) in the epistle?

5. Ephesians and Colossians are “sister” epistles. There are striking similarities between the two; they share much similar content. Let’s take a look at a few of these now:
 - a. Ephesians 5:18-6:19 with Colossians 3:16-4:1
 - b. Ephesians 3:1-10 with Colossians 1:25-29
 - c. Ephesians 4:17-5:2 with Colossians 3:5-14

6. One thing that all these similarities do is to highlight the differences between the two letters. The differences indicate the unique character of each book. For example:
 - a. Contrast Ephesians 5:18 with Colossians 3:16
 - b. Contrast Ephesians 5:22-33 with Colossians 3:18-19
 - c. Contrast Ephesians 6:9-20 with Colossians 4:1-4
 - d. Contrast Ephesians 3:4-6 with Colossians 1:26-27
 - e. Contrast Ephesians 4:1-6 with Colossians 3:1-4
7. What did you learn about the unique emphasis of each book from this set of contrasting passages?
8. What questions do you have about the book of Ephesians as we begin this series?
9. What is your favorite verse or passage in Ephesians? Why is it your favorite?