

MISSION



TEACH  EQUIP  SEND



God's Glory Is Displayed Most Visibly through Healthy Churches

Ephesians 1–6

1) What Is God
doing in the world
today?

1) What Is God
doing in the world
today?

2) What should we
do in light of what
God is doing?

- ◆ 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
- ◆ In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
- ◆ ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.
- ◆ ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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- ◇ ¹⁸ **having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know** what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

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- ◇ ²² And he put **all things under his feet** and gave him as **head over all things to the church**, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

◆ 2:1 “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

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- ◇ ⁴ **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

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- ◇ ⁷ **so that** in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1) What Is
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- *God is saving a people for his glory.*
- **God is saving a people to showcase his grace.**
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◆ 2:11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

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- ◆ ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ**. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

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- ◆ ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but **you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God**, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him **you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit**.

◇ 3:10

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- ◇ ¹¹ This was according to the ***eternal purpose*** that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

1) What Is God doing in the world today?

- *God is saving a people for his glory.*
- *God is saving a people to showcase his grace.*
- ***God is saving a people by uniting them together into one body to display his manifold wisdom to the cosmos.***
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◆ ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ **may have strength to comprehend with all the saints** what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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- ◇ ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us ²¹ **to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus** throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph 3:20-21 ESV)

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- *God is saving a people for his glory.*
- *God is saving a people to showcase his grace.*
- *God is saving a people by uniting them together into one body to display his manifold wisdom to the cosmos.*
- **God is displaying his glory in Christ through the church.**

2) What should we do in light of what God is doing in the world today?

God's glory is displayed most visibly through

- **Church unity (4:1–6)**

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◆4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ ***eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit*** in the bond of peace.

- ◆ 4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ ***eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit*** in the bond of peace.
- ◆ ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:1-6)

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- ◇ 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- ◇ 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom **the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.** (Eph 4:7-16)

◆¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

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◇ ²⁰ ***But that is not the way you learned Christ!—²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,***

- ◇ ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- ◇ ²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, **for we are members one of another.** ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
- ◇ ³² Be kind **to one another**, tenderhearted, forgiving **one another, as God in Christ forgave you** [all].

2) What should we do in light of what God is doing in the world today?

God's glory is displayed most visibly through

- Church unity (4:1–6)
- Godly leaders using their gifts of evangelism, preaching, and discipleship (4:7–16)
- ***Holy living and meaningful membership (4:17–5:17)***
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◇¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing ***one another*** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

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- ◇²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

2) How should we live in light of what God is doing in the world today?

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- Healthy family relationships in the context of the church (5:22–6:9)
- **Fighting sin together (6:10–20)**

◆¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that **you [all]** may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that **you [all]** may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (Eph 6:10-13)

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God is displaying his glory in Christ through the church.

2) What should we do in light of what God is doing?

We need healthy churches that will make the glory that God displays shine most visibly.



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