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Sermon Notes

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God's Eternal Plan to Display His Glory

Ephesians 1-6

Series Introduction

Today, we begin a journey into one of the most astonishing documents ever written in human history... the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians. It is remarkably brief – only 155 verses. It takes less than 15 minutes to read at a normal pace. But it covers heights and depths, lengths and breadths that could occupy our attention for a century without exhausting its major and minor themes.

Today, we will fly over the top of this amazing epistle and get a sense of its grandeur, a sense of the lay of the land.

A number of years ago, Nathaniel and I took a trip to the Grand Canyon, and we had a breathtaking view of the whole thing from the parking lot on the South Rim. I will never forget walking through the trees and seeing it with my own eyes for the first time. We walked the path along that South Rim and stared at the expanse – the length and breadth and depth – of that amazing display of God's power and glory. We spent a few days there, but wanted to experience it in many ways. So we took a raft ride on the Colorado River through the Canyon, and stared up at the walls... unforgettable! But there were other options which we didn't take:

- Hot air balloon ride: \$300, coasting silently with the breeze at 6 miles per hour, 400 feet up... breathtaking views, very slow, not much coverage in the hour-long flight
- Small plane ride: 5000 feet up, 1 hour ride, vast coverage, faster... \$450
- Helicopter ride: able to fly 1000 feet lower than the small plane; able to hover and study some aspects of the Canyon more closely, but still from an altitude

- Donkey ride down to the Colorado, including an overnight camping trip

This morning, we will be taking the airplane ride over the grandeur of the Book of Ephesians... we will be seeing its scope (the flow of Paul's thought) like tracing out the Colorado River's course through the Canyon; then we will look at some of the massive features – the main themes of the Epistle – from 5000 feet up, without any time to develop them.

Next week, God-willing, we will begin our slow donkey-ride down, down, down into the Canyon itself, looking slowly at the features of this amazing display of God's glory... how long will the camping trip last? Who can say?? But the ride will be glorious!!

Quick Overview of the Epistle:

What God Has Done in Christ: Ephesians 1-3

What We Must Do in Christ: Ephesians 4-6

Greeting: 1:1-2

Paul opens the epistle with his standard greeting, but emphasizes that his call as an apostle was "by the will of God"; He writes the letter to give them "grace" ... "Grace to you..."

God's Eternal Purpose in Redemption: 1:3-14

Paul traces out in astonishing terms God's eternal salvation plan, beginning with election before the foundation of the world; then carried out by the redemption in blood by Jesus Christ, and applied by God's sovereign power through the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:4-7 he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Paul's First Prayer for the Ephesians: To Know God's Power: 1:15-23

Paul reveals his prayer life for the Ephesians; they need continual grace from God, and this prayer shows what he thinks they need: KNOWLEDGE... they need to know God better; and they need to know how rich is their inheritance in heaven, and be filled with

hope in that inheritance; and they ESPECIALLY need to know how awesome is God's power to GET THEM THROUGH ALL THE DANGERS OF EARTH finally to their heavenly inheritance... basically, he prays that they would know how powerful God is toward them... God has all power, and Christ wields that power for them... Christ is enthroned above all earthly powers, and exerts His sovereign power for the benefit of the church

Ephesians 1:17-19 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Ephesians 1:21-22 [God raised Christ] far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet

The Ephesians' Journey from Dead in Sin to Raised in Christ: 2:1-10

Paul compares God's power in raising Christ from the dead to God's power in raising the Ephesians from the dead; perhaps they didn't know how bad was their condition before they believed in Christ, but they were spiritually dead in sin even while they were alive physically. BUT GOD RAISED THEM FROM THE DEAD by the gospel, by the Spirit... and they are now spiritually enthroned with Christ at the right hand of God!! WHAT A JOURNEY they have already been on... but this journey can only be known by faith, not ever by works. God gave them faith as a gift of grace. Now God has crafted them to do good works for the rest of their lives!!

Ephesians 2:1-6 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God's Purpose in Jew-Gentile Unity: 2:11-22

Paul then reveals the purpose of God in displaying supernatural unity between people who used to be hostile toward each other. Jewish believers in Christ and Gentile believers in Christ are now ONE; the dividing wall of hostility between them is gone, levelled by Christ at the cross... this was always God's purpose – to bring the scattered children of God together all over the earth and make them ONE. He likens Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians to a building, one building, built on the foundation of Scripture as it testifies to Christ. In this building, God will dwell eternally by His Spirit!!

Ephesians 2:14-16 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Ephesians 2:18-22 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Paul's Ministry for the Gentiles: 3:1-13

Paul next addresses his own ministry, and specifically, his imprisonment for the gospel. He wants them to know the special role God gave him as Apostle to the Gentiles, so they can trust the things he's writing to them. Also, the fact that God had such a person, an "Apostle to the Gentiles" to draw people from the Gentile nations into Christ... into faith; he calls God's purpose to have one people – Jew + Gentile – a mystery not revealed in the past, but now made known, especially through his ministry. Thus, they should not be discouraged about his suffering – the eternal gospel is WORTH SUFFERING FOR!!

Ephesians 3:6-7 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise

in Christ Jesus. ⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power

Ephesians 3:13 I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory..

Paul's Second Prayer for the Ephesians: To Know Christ's Love: 3:14-21

Paul pens his second prayer for the Ephesian Christians... both focus on KNOWING GOD... but the last one focused on knowing God's POWER, this one on knowing Christ's LOVE FOR THEM...

Ephesians 3:16-19 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Living Out Our Unity in Christ by the Spirit: 4:1-6

Paul turns to the second half of the letter, in which he tells the Ephesians how they should live in light of the gospel; he calls it "living a life worthy of the calling" – the heavenly calling; he immediately couches it in UNITY language – unity in the Spirit; something the church has to fight to protect

Ephesians 4:3-6 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Working for Our Unity by the Gifts of the Spirit: 4:7-16

The unity of the Body of Christ is not UNIFORMITY... we're not all identical, with identical gifts and roles; rather Christ has APPORTIONED OUT spiritual gifts to build up the body to full maturity.

Ephesians 4:11-13 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:15-16 speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Protecting Our Unity by Fighting Sin by the Spirit: 4:17-5:21

In this next section, Paul goes to the root of the trouble... what caused the universe to fragment to begin with: SIN! If we are going to be one as the Father and Son are one, we must FIGHT SIN by the power of the Spirit. Paul begins by focusing on the MIND as the root of all behavior:

Ephesians 4:17-24 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. ²⁰ You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

In these verses, Paul goes back and forth between negative sanctification and positive: what we MUST NOT DO, and what we MUST DO: put off falsehood, speak truth; thieves must stop stealing but must work; do not say unwholesome things, but do speak what builds up the body; do not be sexually impure, but be holy; do not speak obscenity, but rather speak thanksgiving; do not live as children of darkness but rather as children of light; do not live a foolish life, but find out what the Lord's will is; do not get drunk, but be filled with the Spirit

Displaying Unity in Christian Marriage: 5:22-33

As a part of that Spirit-filled life of unity, Paul zeroes in on submission to God-ordained authority – he tells some Christians to submit to others; but he also tells the one in authority to wield their authority in a Christ-like manner. These three relationships are wife-husband, child-parent, slave-master. But the most important of these is marriage... so Paul goes into great detail about a godly marriage... the most powerful display of unity in the world; wives are commanded to submit to their husbands as the church to

Christ; and husbands are commanded to love their wives as Christ loved the church. In this way, they will best display the unity of the Godhead, and of Christ with his church.

Ephesians 5:22-23 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Displaying Unity in Godly Submission: 6:1-9

The next two relationships are vital, but of lesser importance. Children are commanded to submit to their parents in the Lord; and fathers are told not to exasperate their children; slaves are commanded to work for their masters as they were working for Christ; masters are commanded to treat their slaves with an eye to the fact that they are also under Christ's authority and will give him an account for how they've treated Christ's loved ones

Protecting Our Unity by Standing Firm against the Devil: 6:10-18

This section is a powerful image... standing firm against the attacks of the devil. The devil will hurl flaming arrows of temptations against the church at every moment, and we must fight for unity and fight for holiness. Paul describes in great detail the "full armor of God" which we must wear to be protected against the devil's flaming arrows.

Standing Together in Prayer: 6:19-24

The epistle ends with Paul making an appeal to pray for his gospel ministry:

Ephesians 6:19-20 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 6:23-24 Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

OK... having given a very brief overview of the entire epistle, I now want to fly back over it and draw out some main themes

I. God's Ultimate End: "The Praise of His Glory"

A. Ephesians Makes It Plain WHY God Created the Universe and Redeemed Us In Christ

Ephesians 1:4-6 In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace (lit. to the praise of the glory of his grace)

In other words, God predestined us for salvation before the world began so that after world history had ended, we might praise His glory as revealed in His grace

Ephesians 1:11-12 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Again, the idea is that the ultimate end, the purpose, the final intention of all human history, especially of redemptive history, was a group of people who would exist as a display of God's glory...

Ephesians 1:13-14 Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory.

One more time... the same thing: the Ephesians were converted by the power of the Holy Spirit, redeemed by the blood of Christ, so that they could be among God's possession— TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY

That God's glory might be praised... so first, God's glory is displayed, then God's glory is PRAISED.

B. What is God's Glory?

1. God's glory is the radiant display of the perfections of God, the attributes of God
2. God's attributes: wisdom, power, love, justice, grace, mercy, patience, righteousness, etc. These are PUT ON DISPLAY in Christ, and then in the church—the redeemed

C. How Will God's Glory Be Praised?

1. In heaven, when the full assembly of the elect will be there, they will see plainly the glory of God in his person and in His works in history
2. They will especially see it in the vast company of redeemed from every tribe and nation and language on earth
3. They will PRAISE GOD for it!! Giving him the worship He deserves!!
4. This is the point of it all!

II. God's Eternal Plan: "To Bring All Things Together into One in Christ"

A. To Achieve This, God Had a PLAN...

1. This plan was worked out in the mind of God before the world began
2. It unfolded in the course of time, in history, in generation after generation of elect people being saved

Ephesians 1:3-6 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace

3. The PLAN is mentioned plainly:

Ephesians 1:11-12 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

B. The Final End of This Plan: UNITY

Ephesians 1:9-10 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

1. When God created the universe, everything was GOOD... in perfect harmony with himself; and God in perfect unity in the Trinity: Father, Son, Spirit
2. When sin entered the world, it was as though someone tossed a **FRAGMENTATION GRENADE** into the perfect world God had crafted... it blew everything into disorder... blew it into bits

3. This is especially true of the human race: our alienation from God and from each other has resulted in a river of evils... beginning obviously with Adam and Eve hiding from each other and from God; and continuing with Cain murdering his righteous brother, Abel
4. God wants to BRING EVERYTHING TOGETHER AND MAKE IT ONE again, especially His elect people
5. Two verses from John help us:

John 11:51-52 Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, ⁵² and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one.

John 17:20-21 I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

A unity based on and patterned after the Trinity is God's ultimate purpose... the universe in harmony again

C. Central to that Plan Was the Redemptive Work of Christ

1. Christ had to address the explosion that caused the universe to blow apart: SIN
2. Christ had to work a work of redemption by His blood, or no unity could occur

III. God's Plan Effected: By Christ, by the Spirit, by the Gospel, by the Gifts

A. Redemption by Christ

1. Ephesians 1:3-14 traces out the astonishing depth of God's redemptive plan
2. Everything is IN CHRIST... IN HIM... over and over again, Paul makes it plain that this is all IN and THROUGH the work of Christ!!
3. Steps unfolded
 - a. Election: (vs. 4) "He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world..."
 - b. Purpose: (vs. 4) "that we should be holy and blameless in his sight"
 - c. Love: (vs. 5) "in love..."
 - d. Predestination: (vs 5) "he predestined us..."
 - e. Adoption: (vs. 5) "to be adopted as his sons" THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

- f. Pleasure & Will: (vs. 5): “in accordance with his pleasure and will” GOD’S PLAN
- g. Purpose: (vs. 6) “to the praise of his glorious grace”
- h. Grace: (vs. 6) “which he has freely given us in the one He loves” (i.e. Christ)
- i. Redemption in Christ: (vs. 7) “in him we have redemption through his blood” = THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS!!!! [without that, we would be condemned... not united with God!!]
- j. Blood: (vs. 7) “through his blood”... blood sacrifice by Christ—“Jesus paid it all”!!!!
- k. GRACE: (vs. 7) “in accordance with the riches of his grace”: [Grace is God’s settled determination to do us good despite our sins]
- l. Wisdom/Understanding: (vs. 8): without that wisdom of the gospel, we would still be lost

ALL OF THIS WAS SETTLED BEFORE ANY OF US WAS BORN... it was blood-bought 2000 years ago by Christ... now it had to be applied to us

B. Applied by the Spirit

1. The Spirit’s unique work in the world is to take this work of Christ and apply it to us personally
2. The Spirit works in sinners individually, those who were chosen before the creation of the world...

Ephesians 1:13-14 *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory.*

C. The Message of the Gospel

1. In that same passage, the message of the gospel is highlighted: “You heard the word of truth, the gospel...”
2. HAVING BELIEVED, you were marked with the seal of the Spirit...

3. Later, Paul will highlight his own ministry (Ephesians 3) so they understand God's purpose in spreading the gospel throughout Gentile lands... not an accident!!
4. The Work of Christ in history + the proclamation of the gospel + the internal sealing work of the Spirit = SALVATION for sinners!!

D. The Work of Spiritual Gifts

1. Unity is then worked out by the power of the Spirit and the working of spiritual gifts
2. Ephesians 4 makes this plain, as we've already seen
3. As each gifted part does it's work, the elect are 1) evangelized; 2) converted; 3) build up to spiritual maturity

Ephesians 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

IV. God's Plan on Display: Unity in the Heart, in the Church, in Marriage

A. God Wants the Church to Display His Glory

Ephesians 3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms

B. Holiness: Heart Unity

1. Lost people are SEPARATE... not included... on the outside, because of their sins

Ephesians 2:12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 4:18-19 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

2. The work of redemption is a work of UNIFYING the heart with God... this is HOLINESS

Ephesians 4:22-24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made

new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

C. Church Unity

1. The command

Ephesians 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

2. The essence

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

D. Marital Unity

Ephesians 5:31-33 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband

V. God's Plan Opposed: By Satan, by the World, by Sin

A. This Amazing Plan will Be Opposed Every Step of the Way

B. Satan is Powerfully Present in Two Places

1. Ephesians 2: Holding onto the hearts of the unregenerate

Ephesians 2:1-2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

2. Ephesians 6: Fighting the church in overpowering ways

Ephesians 6:11-13 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

3. The plan of God can only make progress as Satan is defeated

VI. Applications

A. What Does Ephesians Teach Us About Salvation History?

1. God established a plan for His glory before the foundation of the world
2. That should make us less flighty, less terrorized by new developments, less worried or anxious about the future

B. How Should God's Commitment to His Own Glory Affect Us

1. We should repent of all the ways we've been living for our own glory, our own agenda, our own reputation
2. We should ask God to transform our minds and hearts to make us more God-centered
3. This should make God's glory uppermost in our affections, uppermost in our motives and plans
 - a. Ask: How do I plan to display God's glory today?
 - b. How would my various roles put God on display? How can I show the mercy of God in my life? How can I put God's love and patience on display?
 - c. How can my marriage better display the glory of God?

C. How Does Ephesians Display the Greatness of Christ?

1. This entire salvation plan was BOUGHT WITH THE BLOOD of Christ
2. We should trust in Christ, flee to Christ, embrace Christ in the abandon of faith and trust in His blood for the forgiveness of our sins
3. We were redeemed for the praise of His glorious grace... we should fill our mouths with praise moment by moment... learn to speak the greatness of Christ much more frequently than you do
4. Ephesians speaks much of THANKFULNESS... how can you thank Christ more frequently, and speak your thankfulness more openly to others?

D. Unity

1. The major theme of unity has emerged in our "flyover"
2. How can we live more for the unity of the church?
3. How can FBC be more united?

- a. We can listen to each other more, carry each other's burdens more, pray for each other more
 - b. We can try to agree with each other as well... don't be so committed to our way of thinking... be willing to be shaped and molded by other Christians
4. Married folks: How can you grow as a couple, be more one, more united?
- a. Does your marriage give a beautiful picture of Christ and the church?
 - b. If not, what are some steps you can take together to be more ONE... more a picture of the Trinity... separate persons, completely united in mind, heart, thought
5. Parents: how can you live out the unity with your children that God intends? How can you wield your God-given authority in a more Christlike way, honoring your children as possible heirs with you of heaven?

E. Satan's Work

1. This overview has given us a chance to glimpse Satan's secret work in the non-Christians around us
2. Ephesians says they are "without hope and without God in the world"
3. Ephesians says Satan is the "prince of the power of the air" and holds people enslaved in spiritual death
4. Pray that God would unleash the gospel in Durham through FBC! Pray with a hunger to see souls gathered to Christ... brought together... no longer foreigners and outsiders
5. Be aware that Satan is constantly assaulting us as believers too! PUT ON YOUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR!

F. Prayer Life

1. Study Paul's remarkable prayers in this book... Ephesians 1:18-19; Ephesians 3:14-21
2. Imitate how he prays for other Christians
 - a. Choose two FBC members who are NOT family members
 - b. Pray Ephesians 1:18-19 for the first, and Ephesians 3:14-21 for the second every day this week

Ephesians 1:18-19 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his

glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Ephesians 3:16-19 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

c. Then tell those people that you did!!