

Ephesians

More than a Makeover

“All Or Nothing At All”

Ephesians 1:15-23

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / October 13, 2024

Ephesians 1:15-23 “For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸having 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might ²⁰that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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. ²²And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

I. You can't choose Jesus as Savior, but not as Lord.

Ephesians 1:15-16a “For this reason, because **I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus** and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you...”

A. Jesus doesn't come in parts. He is your Savior AND Lord, or He is neither.

Romans 10:9 “Because, if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 14:9 “For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be **Lord both of the dead and the living.**”

B. Only Christians will claim “Jesus is Lord” and mean it.

Romans 8:9 “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.**”

1 Corinthians 12:3 “Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus is accursed!’ **and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.**”

II. You can't choose to love some Christians, but not others.

Ephesians 1:15-16a “For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and **your love toward all the saints**, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you...”

A. Sound theology is no substitute for love.

1 Corinthians 13:1 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”

B. Christian love extends to all Christians.

Philippians 2:1-2 “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of **the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.**”

1 John 3:14 “We know that we have passed out of death into life, **because we love the brothers.** Whoever does not love abides in death.”

C. One of the most powerful evangelistic tools we’ve been given is our love for one another.

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ **By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**”

D. Someone who lacks love for other Christians also lacks love for God.

1 John 5:1-2 “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, **and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him.** ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments.”

You don't have to like every Christian, but you do have to love them.

3 Things To Pray For ALL Your Brothers And Sisters In Christ

1. Pray they'd be **filled with wisdom** from knowing Christ and His Word.

Ephesians 1:17 “...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you **the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him...**”

2. Pray they'd **grow in understanding** God's ultimate plan.

Ephesians 1:18 “...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...”

3. Pray they'd **know the power of God** in all its greatness.

Ephesians 1:19 “...and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might...”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Pastor Peter said “Jesus can't be accepted in ‘parts.’” Why is that important?
2. What part(s) of your life do you struggle to surrender to Christ's Lordship?
3. What can you do tomorrow to show love to a Christian you find difficult to love?
4. Pastor Peter said “You don't have to like every Christian, but you do have to love them.” What does that mean?
5. Review the “3 Things To Pray For ALL Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ.” Someone likely prayed for 1, 2 or all of those things for you. Which of those things are you particularly glad someone prayed for you? Which of those things will you pray for someone tomorrow?