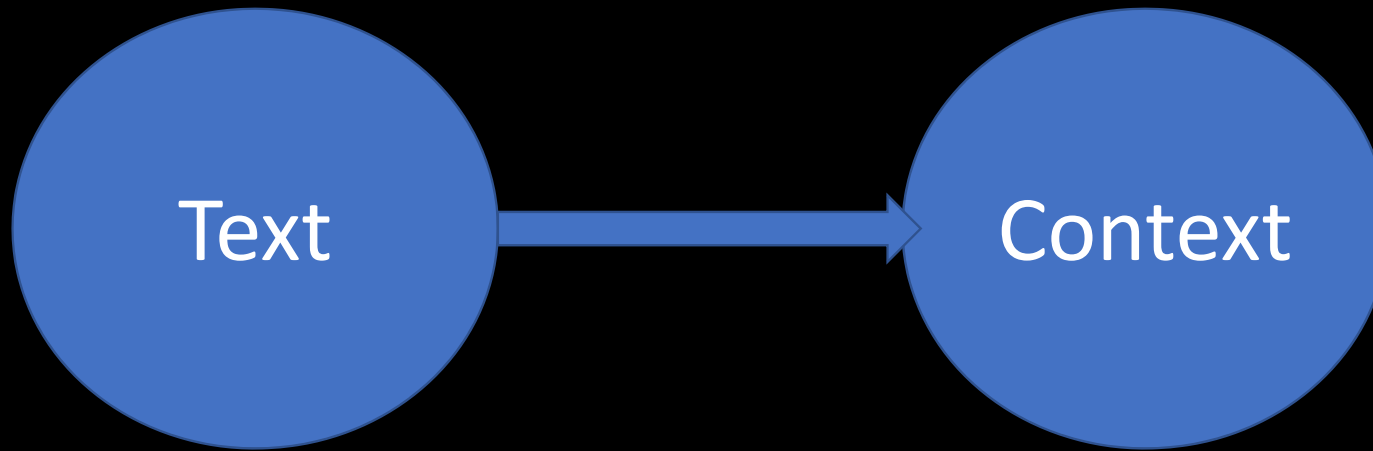


Gospel Community Church
Ephesians

The Community Christ Died to Create

June 5 and 12, 2019



New Testament letters (especially Paul)

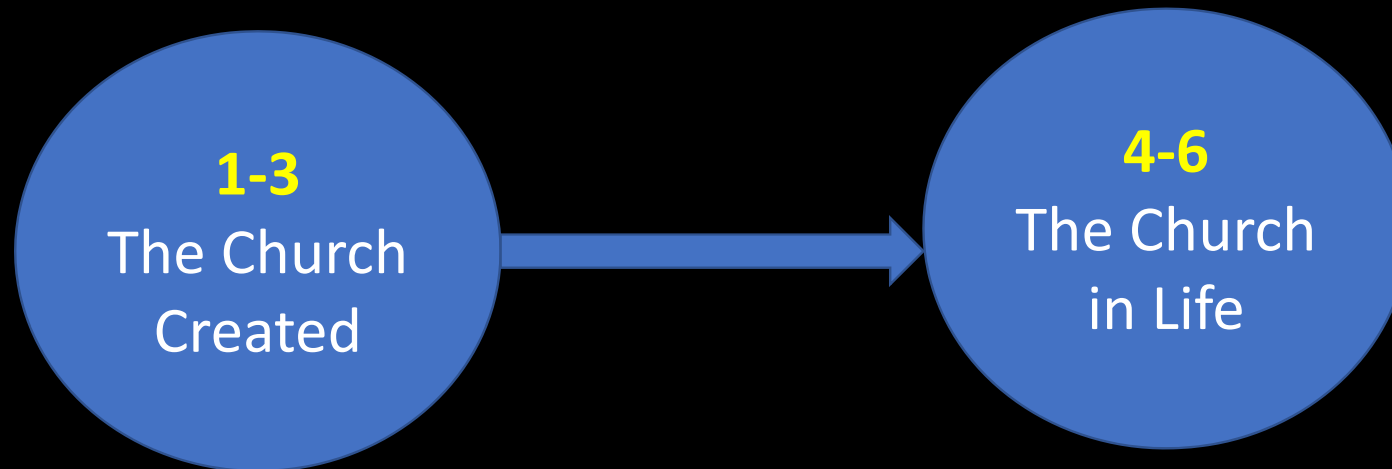
- Personal
- Occasional

... but Ephesians...

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of
God,

To the saints in Ephesus, and are faithful¹
in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians Big Picture



TEN THINGS

#1 In Christ

- Count the number of times used in the verses 1-14.
- The unity of the church is “in Christ” (2:14).
- The growth of the church is “in Christ” (4:14).
- The way of treating each other is “in Christ” (5:22 – 6:9).
- The way of standing against the devil is “in Christ” (6:10ff).

Where are we?

IN

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 to himself 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.

TEN THINGS

#2 Redeemed and celebrating

- 1:3-9 (esp. v.7) – this is a description of the church.
- 2:1-6 – WE were dead and WE were raised.
- 4:17-23 – the new mind is ours already.
- 5:15-20 – singing and making music

TEN THINGS

#3 Trinitarian

- 1:3 – how Paul begins
- 1:17; 3:14 – prays to the Father; normal Christian prayer
- In Christ (1:3-14), like Christ (5:1), under Christ (1:21-23), with Christ (2:6), through Christ (2:18)
- Filled with the Spirit (2:22; 4:30; 5:18)

TEN THINGS

#4 Unified

- 2:14ff – a fact
- 4:1-3 – a practice.

TEN THINGS

#5 Centre of
God's plan

- 1:4-5 – Chosen and predestined (think of the church, not individuals).
- 2:10 – God's workmanship.
- 3:10 – God's wisdom.

TEN THINGS

#6 Relational integrity

- Humility, patience (4:2-3)
- Truth and trust (4:25ff)
- Love and forgiveness (4:30 – 5:2)

TEN THINGS

#7 Growing

- temple (2:14-22)
- body (4:11-16)

TEN THINGS

#8 Holy

- The word “holy” is used 5X in Ephesians (1:4; 2:21; 3:5; 4:24; 5:27).
- 1:4 – the first sentence: “...that we should be holy and blameless before him.”
- 2:21 – a holy temple

TEN THINGS

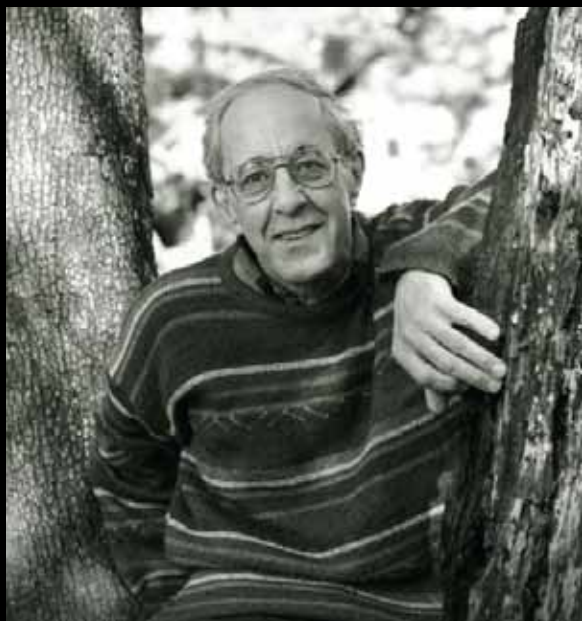
#9 Different from
the world

- Truth (4:17-31)
- Love (5:1-6)
- Light (5:7-14)
- Wisdom (5:15-21)

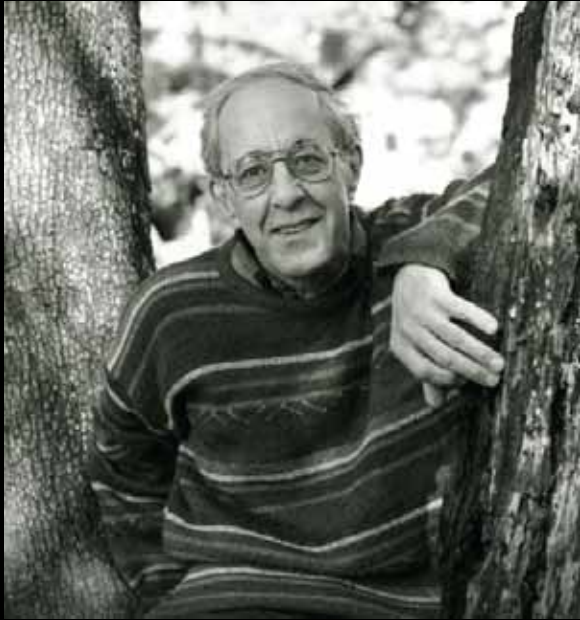
TEN THINGS

#10 Prayerful

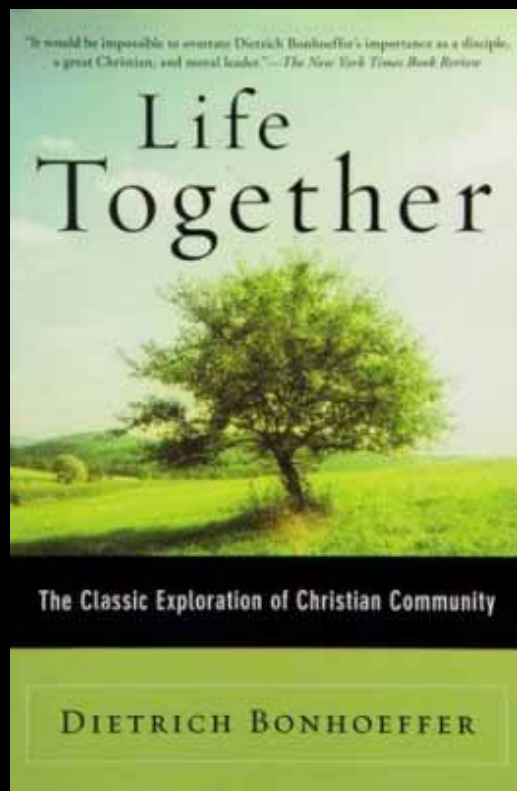
- Beginning (chapter 1)
- Centre (3:14-21)
- End (6:18-20)



YOU ARE LOVED - UNCONDITIONALLY AND COMPLETELY. The limited and broken love of parents, friends, children, lovers, other family and community, is simply a reflection of that unlimited love that has already been given to you. It is a limited reflection of an unlimited love. It is a partial glimpse of something that was "impartially" given. You are not what the world makes you. You were created because of love and you are given unconditional love.



That is who you are: a beloved child who has love to share... [Jesus] knew who he was, he claimed it, and he lived from it. People ruined his life, rejected him, hurt him, spat on him, and finally killed him on the cross, but he never lost the truth. He lived his pain as well as his joy under the blessing of the Father. And later he said, "As the Father has loved me, I love you."



Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this...

What does this mean? It means, first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ. It means, second, that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. It means, third, that in Jesus Christ we have been chosen from eternity, accepted in time, and united for eternity.

We are all members of one
another, and one of us is
Jesus Christ...

Austin Farrer

Family Language in Ephesians

- Adopted as sons (1:4)
- You have been brought near (2:13)
- He himself is our peace (2:14)
- You are members of the household of God (2:19)
- Members of the body (3:6; 4:25; 5:30)
- From whom every family on heaven and earth is named (3:15)
- Be imitators of God as beloved children (5:1)
- One another (4:2; 25, 32; 5:19, 21) – 6 times!