

**THE CHURCH: GOD'S NEW HUMANITY**  
**An Overview of the Epistle to the Ephesians**

**My Main Point** - Having been given new life in Christ Jesus, let us together, as God's new humanity, arise and build God's New Society, His Church, living our lives and relating to others in God's new way to bring glory to Him and to serve as a compelling witness to our world.

**1. An Overview of Ephesians** (drawn from John Stott, *Ephesians, The Bible Speaks Today*, IVP, 1979, p.25.)

- a. **The new LIFE** of this new humanity which God has given us in Christ (Eph 1:3-2:10)
- b. **The new SOCIETY** of this new humanity which God has given us in Christ (Eph 2:11-3:21)
- c. **The new LIFESTYLE** of this new humanity which bears witness to our new life in Christ (Eph 4:1-5:21)
- d. **The new RELATIONSHIPS** of this new humanity that are characterized by love and harmony with others and hostility to the devil (Eph 5:21-6:24).

**2. A Closer View of Ephesians**

- a. **New Life in Christ. (Eph 1:3-2:22)** Each and every member of God's new humanity has been given new life in Christ. This new life is:
  - i. **A Life of Blessing (Eph 1:4-14).** Our election has been established. (Eph 1:4, 11), our adoption enacted (Eph 1:5), our redemption procured (Eph 1:7), our sins forgiven (Eph 1:7), and our inheritance granted, grounded, and guaranteed (Eph 1:11-14).
  - ii. **A Life of Privilege (Eph 1:15-23).** We have been given the privilege to know the greatness of God's Person, the greatness of God's plan for us, and the greatness of God's power towards us, and the greatness of God's Son given to us.
  - iii. **Life Eternal (Eph 2:1-10).** We, who were once dead in our sin, enslaved by our sin, and condemned because of our sin have now been made alive in Christ, recipients of God's immeasurable and unmerited favor, saved by God's grace from God's wrath, seated with Christ in the heavenly places, granted eternal life, and set aside for good works!
  - iv. **Life Together (Eph 2:11-22).**

- b. A New Call.** Each member of God's new humanity has been given a new call to:
- i. Build God's new SOCIETY, the Church. (Eph 3:1-4:16)** We are called to be Spirit-filled, godly, equipped, co-laboring witnesses of the gospel and builders of the Church.
    - (1) Witnesses (Eph 3:1-13).** We are called to be credible messengers of the mystery of history. The mystery of history is this - through the gospel, God is creating a new humanity in Christ, His church, in which the Gentiles are co-heirs, co-members, co-partakers (fellow, equal, co-heirs, etc.) with the Jews.
    - (2) Spirit-filled (Eph 3:14-21).** We are called in ever-increasing measure to live and walk in the power of the Spirit, to possess a settled faith in Christ, and to know and bear witness to the love of God granted us in Christ through the gospel.
    - (3) Godly (Eph 4:1-6).** We are called to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel, "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
    - (4) Equipped (Eph 4:7-14).** We are called to be equipped by the leaders of Christ's church, to become mature disciples of Christ,
    - (5) Co-laboring (Eph 4:15-16).** We are called to do our part through our giving, our serving, and our gifts to build the church in which God has placed us.
  - ii. Live a new LIFESTYLE which bears witness to our new life in Christ (Eph 4:1,17-5:20)**
    - (1) Put off the old ways we lived in our former life.** We are called to longer live as we did when we were alienated from God and walked in the darkness, ignorance, and futility of our minds and the hardness of our hearts. when we lived in darkness and in ignorance.
    - (2) Put on the new ways of our new life in Christ,** a Spirit-filled life that is characterized by purity, truth, and wisdom.
  - iii. Establish new RELATIONSHIPS which bear witness to our new life in Christ (Eph 5:21-6:24).**
    - (1) We are called to relate to others in ways that please the Lord and are characterized by: godly submission to authority, godly exercise of authority, respect, love, harmony and servanthood.
    - (2) We are called to no longer relate to demonic powers as seduced captives but as overcoming warriors going forth in the whole armor of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. With Ephesians in view, how shall you (and I) then live?** Having been given new life in Christ Jesus, let us, as God's new humanity, arise and build God's New Society, His church, living our lives and relating to others in God's new way in order to bring much glory to God and to serve as a compelling witness to our world.