

THE → WHOLE STORY

Week 5: The church *as God sees it*

Eph 1.15-23; 6.10-18

OPEN

Welcome to our series called **“The whole story.”** Playing our part in the drama of redemption requires that we know the whole story from Creation (Act 1) to New Creation (Act 7). Act 4 (last week) showcased Jesus, the first one to display the full glory of the image of God in a human. His incarnation was the beginning of a new stream of humanity and His resurrection was the beginning of the new heavens and earth. He invites us to follow Him in a new way of living, not only individually but also corporately. That's our focus for today—the church which is His body, His family, the new temple and above all His bride

SHARE & RECONNECT

- Share your top positive and negative experience in / with the church (may or may not be Wellspring).

READING

- Read and list what stands out for you in each of these passages in Ephesians about the church:
 - Ephesians 1.3-10, 19-23
 - Ephesians 2.11-18
 - Ephesians 3.7-11
 - Ephesians 6.10-21

? REFLECT

- Which of the four metaphors for the church that Paul uses is/could be most impactful when it comes to your relationship to “the church”?
 - Body (2.14-18,4.4)
 - Family (2.19;4.6)
 - Temple 2.19-22
 - Bride 5.31-33
- **Read Ephesians 6.10-17**
 - When Paul moves from the theology of the church in Ch 1-3 to the “so what” in ch 4-6 why does he begin with the subject matter of 4.1-6?
 - How have you experienced the reality of spiritual warfare with the powers of darkness (it doesn't have to be dramatic. Satan usually works subversively and gradually)?
 - Which piece(s) of your armour are missing or loose and how are to “put them on”?
- **Read Paul's two prayers recorded in Ephesians 1.15-23 and 2.14-21**
 - Any significance to the fact that these two prayers are interspersed in the body of his letter?
 - In what ways are these prayers similar to /different from the prayers most of us pray

□ PRAY

- Taking our cues from Paul's references to the Spirit and his prayers above, pray that Wellspring, and other churches that might be on your heart , will be:
 - Sealed with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (1.13-17)
 - Built together as a dwelling place fro God by the Spirit (2.18-22)
 - Strengthened with power in our inner being through the Spirit (3.16,17)
 - Armed with the sword the Spirit—His word (6.17,18)
- Pray for our staff, elders, and ministry leaders as we discern the Holy Spirits leading during this time of transition. **Pray for unity, humility, and love and a growing patience as we wait on the Lord.**