

# The Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

## Author

Who is the author of the letter to the Ephesians based on Catholic tradition?  
What does modern scholarship have to say about the author and why?

## Themes and Characteristics

How does Christ reign and renew? What are the saving mysteries that continue to grace our lives and souls? What is God's new creation in Christ? What is Christ's mystical body?

Read 1:1-14 How has Paul organized this benediction related to the Trinity and past, present and future? (Note 1:3-14)

What is a Berakah? (Note 1:3-14)

What are the two Mysteries contained in the doctrine of predestination? (Note 1:5)

How were seals viewed in the ancient world? What sacraments concern themselves with a seal? How does baptism relate to circumcision based upon Pauline theology? (Note 1:13)

Read 1:15-22 What are the nine choirs and angels? Is heaven hierarchical? (Note 1:21)

What topic does Chapter 2 address? (Note 2:1-22)

Read 2:1 What is a consequence of sin? What does Paul mean when he says “we were by nature children of wrath”? (Note 2:1)

Read 2:2-10 What does Paul mean when he says “for by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God-not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Note 2:8, 2:9, 2:10)

Read 3:1-6 What is the mystery of Christ as it relates to the Gentiles as fellow heirs? (Note 3:6)

Read 3:7-12 What is the mystery hidden from all ages in God? (Note 3:10)

Read 3:14 What kind of a gesture is kneeling? (Note 3:14)

How does doctrinal exposition relate to moral exhortation? (Note 4:1-6:20)

Read 4:1-7 What is meant by unity of spirit? (Note 4:3)

Read 4:8 How does the Ascension relate to the distribution of gifts? (Note 4:8)

Read 4:9-16 What is meant by the verse “And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and some teachers”? (Note 4:11)

What is the relationship between truth, love and spiritual maturity? (Note 4:15)

What are the 4 marks of the Church?

Is the Church a mystical extension of the incarnation? (Note 4:16)

Read 4:25-26 What does St. Paul mean when he says, “be angry but do not sin”? (Note 4:26)

### The Christian Household

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the church; <sup>33</sup> however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Note 5:21, 5:22-33, 5:22, 5:25, 5:31, 5:32)

Read 6:1-4 Did pagan children honor their parents? (Note 6:2)

Read 5:6-9 What should be the relationship between slaves and masters? (Note 6:5)

Read 6:10-17 What does St. Paul mean when he talks about spiritual warfare? (Note 6:10-17)