

IMMEASURABLY MORE ..

[Part 2]

learning from the letter to the Ephesians

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! [Eph.3.20f]

The letter to the Ephesians sets out for us ‘the unsearchable riches of Christ’ (Eph.3.8), and assures us that God is ‘able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine’ (Eph.3.20): this set of studies is intended to help us all enter into and enjoy that ‘immeasurably more’.

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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No pressure!

There are 7 [sets of] questions in each study to provide the option, which some find useful, of the material being used as a daily study.

Priorities!

You’ll know your own group, so use what you’ll find most helpful. As always there will be benefit in looking at all the questions! Given how pivotal to the whole passage **Q4**, is try and ensure that this is not one of the ones omitted!

Prayer!

Do try also to make a point in your Community Group of leaving time for praying together!

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9. Ephesians 5.15-6.9 [w/b Sunday 18th June]

“making the most of every opportunity”

This whole second part of the letter (chapters 4-6) is defined by Paul’s exhortation in 4.1 to *‘live a life worthy of [or ‘a life which corresponds to’] the calling you have received.’* Be what you are, is the thrust of what he is urging on his readers.

In the previous study (5.1-14), therefore, we saw Paul spelling out the implications of our being both *‘dearly loved children’* (5.1-7), and *‘children of light’* (5.8-14): in this next passage, which we’ll be studying now, he is explaining how we live *‘not as unwise but as wise’* (5.15) – because that’s who and what we are.

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1. Read Ephesians.5.15-6.9. The new life we are given in Christ is marked by a true ‘street’ wisdom. This is what living wisely looks like at ‘street level’, in the nitty gritty contexts of our daily lives.

Reading through the whole passage what do you find encouraging and what do you find most challenging?

2. Read Ephesians 5.18. The manner of living to which Paul is directing his readers is only possible as we are filled with and empowered by the Spirit of God.

All who believe in Jesus are *already* indwelt by the Spirit of God, so why does Paul exhort these believers to '*be filled with the Spirit*', and what does he mean by that?

This is a command! How do we ensure we are filled with the Spirit? What does that entail?

3. Read Ephesians 5.19-21. What Paul urges on his readers here is related to his exhortation to be filled with the Spirit: either as (a) a means to that end, or (b) the result of that in our lives.

What three vital exhortations are addressed to us in these verses?

What do you think is meant by our speaking to one another 'in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs'?

4. Read Ephesians 5.21. It's important to recognize that this exhortation to 'submit to one another' is addressed to *every* believer.

In what practical ways might this 'submitting to one another' be given expression in the life of our fellowship here at Gilcomston?

How might a 'submissive' spirit best be cultivated within a fellowship?

5. Read Ephesians 5.22-33. Paul first applies this exhortation to the context of marriage and the different 'roles' that husband and wife play in 'dancing' out the gospel in their mutual love.

What Paul says here echoes what he wrote in **Eph.2.14**: in what ways does marriage provide a helpful picture of the gospel?

What does Paul call for in the way a wife relates to her husband – and why?

What will the 'submission' (see 5.21) of a husband look like, according to Paul?

6. Read Ephesians 6.1-4. The home and family is the next area of human life to which Paul turns our attention: domestic life can often be stressful, challenging and fraught with competing interests!

Why do you think Paul labours the promise attached to the fifth commandment?

How can we as a fellowship best help children and parents alike rise to the challenge of these verses?

7. Read Ephesians 6.5-9. Far from being little more than the place where we 'earn our crust', the workplace is viewed by Paul as a primary 'mission-field' where the gospel of Jesus can be given expression.

What are the particular challenges Christians face in the workplace today, whether as employers or employees?

In what ways does Paul suggest that Christians might live distinctively in the workplace?

What motivations does Paul give for the way we conduct ourselves in the workplace?