

Ephesians

- **Author and Date**
 - Author identifies himself twice as Paul (1:1, 3:1)
 - Some dispute arose in the 16th century and has continued to this day, based on the fact that the tone and style are somewhat different than the rest of Paul's known letters.
 - For those who maintain the traditional view, which was undisputed for the first 16 centuries of the Church, the stylistic difference can be explained by the fact that Paul was a versatile writer, and adapted quite well to various audiences. He is not wrestling with some moral or doctrinal crisis in this letter, which could account for it's more calm and lyrical style.
 - It can be dated either as mid 60's (if written by Paul during his Roman captivity), or even as late as the 90's (if written by one of Paul's disciples).
- **Destination**
 - Possibly more than simply the church in Ephesus, since some ancient manuscripts lack the line of the opening verse 'in Ephesus'.
- **Themes and Characteristics**
 - Contemplative and reflective theology.
 - Trinity, Christ, Church, Sacraments, Christian Life
 - The Mystery of our redemption in Christ (1:9; 3:3, 4, 9; 5:32; 6:19).
 - Christ reigning in heaven (1:20-22; 2:4-6; 5:2).
 - Vertical Reaching to the highest height.
 - Plan (1:10; 3:9) and Purpose (1:5, 9, 11; 3:11).
 - Glory (1:6, 12, 14, 17-18; 3:13, 16, 21).
 - The Church as the mystical body of Christ (1:3-13; 2:10-22; 3:4-6; 5:22-32)
 - Consider all of this profound ecclesiological reflection in light of Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:3-5).
 - Horizontal reaching to the widest breadth.
 - Demonstrates the intellectual and spiritual growth of Paul over 30 years of intense apostolic work. (Evangelization to Mystagogy. Gospel to Mystery).
 - Doesn't dwell on the Second Coming or Justification by faith.
- **Structure**
 - Opening address 1:1-2
 - Doctrinal Exposition 1:3 - 3:21
 - Moral Exhortation 4:1 - 6:20
 - Closing Farewell 6:21-24