

# Westwood Baptist Church



## *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

### Worship Guide for August 14, 2022

#### Sermon Notes

##### **Humility, Community, and a Blessing of Grace**

Ephesians 6:19-24 (pew Bible pg. 979)

This week we come to the conclusion of Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. The end of this journey brings us down from the reality of spiritual warfare in the heavens, back into the confines of the local fellowship. We will wrap up this series next week with an overview of Ephesians, but today's passage summarizes and applies some of the key themes we've seen over the past nine months. Throughout the epistle peace, love, faith, and grace have been repeatedly emphasized. At the end of the letter, they are front and center. Paul began this letter with blessings from the God, and he ends in the same way. In this concluding portion of Ephesians, we see:

##### **The Beauty of Humility That Says, "Pray For Me". (vv19-20)**

Paul is wise enough to see his own need: he is not strong enough to stand against the enemy in his own strength. He is humble enough to openly acknowledge this by asking for the church to pray with him and for him. But Paul's posture is not defensive! He asks for prayer so that he will have the ability to proclaim the gospel message with clarity and courage.

Application:

##### **The Blessing of Community That Encourages Our Hearts. (vv21-22)**

As "members of one another" (4:25) all those within the community of faith are called to live out the unity and fellowship that Christ has accomplished (4:1-ff). Paul wanted the Ephesian church to "know how I am and what I am doing" in order that they might more effectively pray for him, that they be encouraged in their heart, and that their bonds of love be strengthened. Many times, the catalyst for this encouragement is not the vocal leader in the front, but the quiet faithful individual who is in the background loving and serving the saints.

Application:

##### **The Benediction of Grace for All Who Love Christ. (vv23-24)**

Peace, love, and faith are recurring themes in Ephesians, so it is appropriate that Paul brings them together in his concluding benediction. Every word of this sentence is loaded with deep theological truth and reflects the glorious grace of the gospel. Grace is the first word of the formal greeting that began Ephesians, and here it is as the final thought of the closing sentence. This grace is the fountain from which the genuine disciple's love for the Lord Jesus Christ flows. This is a love that is enduring and eternal.

Applications:

## Weekly Discipleship Guide

### Know

**What does God intend for me to know?**  
**In your journal, use the following prompts to write some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

### Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?**  
**In your journal, use the following questions to write some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

### Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

How does the phrase "members of one another" from 4:25 help us understand into what this community of faith we call the local church ought to be? How does it help us better understand the function of each of our church's programs (Corporate Worship, Sunday School, Life Groups, Student/Children's Ministries, Men's/Women's Ministries, etc.)?

How does Paul, not only here but throughout his New Testament writings, offer an example for how we should live with open lives toward one another? What are some of the greatest hindrances to that, and how can neglecting this affect the community we share?

How does intentional life in the body help us to grow in peace, love, faith, and grace, and how does it offer the opportunities to measure how we are growing in those areas? How can a lack of intentional life in the body stunt or inhibit growth in these areas?

*\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.*

#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
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**Deborah Rudd:** Children's Ministry  
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#### Church Office Hours

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