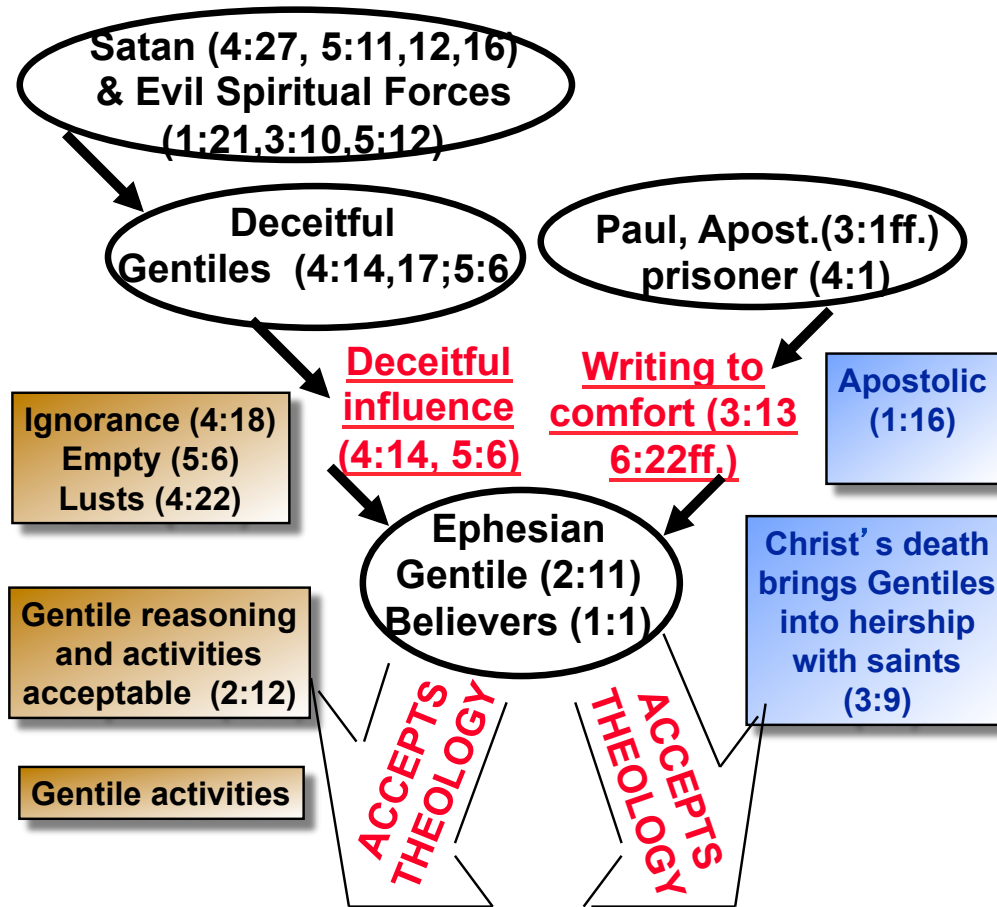


EPHESIANS

Problem: Ephesian believers are questioning their belief in Paul’s doctrine of Gentile inclusion, and the resultant behavioral change, due to his failure to be victorious over Gentile authorities who have imprisoned him.

Subject: The inclusion of Jews and Gentiles into the body

Complement: is revealed through Paul and results in the abandonment of Gentile behavior in order to live like saints and represent God.



<i>Deceived (4:15)</i>	-SELF-	<i>Speak truth (4:15)</i>
<i>Disregard (4:25-32)</i>	-BROS.-	<i>Edify (4:29)</i>
<i>Join immor. (5:3ff.)</i>	-UNSAVED--	<i>not partake(5:3ff.)</i>
<i>Disunity (4:25-32)</i>	-CHURCH-	<i>Unity (4:3-16)</i>
<i>Lose heart (3:13)</i>	-AUTHOR-	<i>Pray.cmfrt(6:19f.)</i>

EPHESIANS

Problem: Gentile behavior and theology is influencing believers away from identification with Christ.

Solution: The readers are to recognize that as Gentile believers they have been uniquely made the children of God with the saints and are to be separated from the Gentiles and their behavior.

Argument

- I. **Address:** Paul the apostolic author, to Ephesian saints (1:1-2).
- II. **Theology:** Revealed by Paul, Gentiles have been joined into a body of Jewish believers, given inheritance, and assured of a seat with Christ, who is presently over all authorities, both Gentile and Satanic (1:3--3:21).
 - A. **Content Theology:** The plan of God, implemented through Jesus Christ, has provided an inheritance guaranteed in the heavenlies for the chosen (1:3-14).
 - B. **Reader Action:** Paul prays that the Ephesian believers will understand the dominion which Christ has established over all powers, Gentile and Satanic (1:15-23).
 - C. **Theology:** Hopeless Gentile sinners were granted through the grace of Christ a position with Jewish believers which has been uniquely revealed by Paul (2:1--3:13).
 1. **Content Theology:** Gentiles originally hopeless in Gentile sins are raised up to sit in the heavenlies (above all powers with Christ) through grace in Christ (2:1-10).
 2. **Content Theology:** Christ has joined them into the body with believing Jews as equal partners to represent God (2:11- 22).
 3. **Source Theology:** Paul is the means by which God has chosen to reveal this unity of body (3:1-13).
 - D. **Reader Activity:** Paul desires that they would understand the greatness of what has been accomplished and into what they have been included (3:14-21).

- III. **Application:** Do not act any longer as Gentiles but as holy saints joined with Jewish believers (4:1--6:20).
- A. **Exhortation:** Recognize and act to unify the body together (4:1-32).
1. **Encouragement:** Act on behalf of the unity of the body (4:1-16)
 - a. **Exhortation:** Make every effort to preserve the unity of body (4:1-3).
 - b. **Content Theology:** God has made provisions for the enablement of the body (4:4-13).
 - c. **Warning:** Do not use Gentile tactics as deceit, but revealed doctrine of God (4:14-16).
 2. **Warning:** Do not preserve Gentile activities which divide the body (4:17-32).
 - a. **Warning:** Do not keep Gentile traditions which are based on empty human reasonings, but put on the new self which responds to the word of God (4:17-23).
 - b. **Imperative:** Act on behalf of brother which unify the body (4:24-32)
 - 1) **Warning:** Do not lie
 - 2) **Warning:** Do not steal
 - 3) **Imperative:** Give word of edification
 - 4) **Warning:** Do not be bitter, but be kind and forgiving
- B. **Exhortation:** Act as sons of God¹ and not as unrelated Gentiles (5:1-20).
1. **Warning:** Do nothing immoral as the Gentiles (5:1-14).
 2. **Imperative:** Be inspired to act on the basis of the revealed word and not on wine as the Gentiles (5:15-20).

¹ In the last verse of chapter 4 and the first verse of chapters five Paul exhorts them to be representatives of Jesus Christ, who is the representative of God.

- C. Exhortation: Obey God's revealed order (5:15--6:9).
1. **Wives**: Be subject to husbands (5:22-24)
 2. **Husbands**: Love their wives (5:25-33).
 3. **Children**: Obey their parents (6:1-4).
 4. **Slaves**: Obey their masters (6:5-8).
 5. **Masters**: Treat slaves fairly (6:9).
- D. Exhortation: Study the word (6:10-20).
1. **Content Theology**: The fight is not against Gentile authorities, but against Satan and his powers who are behind all evil (6:10-12).
 2. **Conclusion**: The fight must thus be made in the spiritual realm, not the physical, by using the word of God (6:13-20).
 - a. Understand the revelation of God ("truth") (6:13).
 - b. Receive His imputed righteousness (6:14)
 - c. Recognize that the believer is at peace with God (not the Gentiles who are under wrath) (6:15).
 - d. Believe the revelation ("faith") (6:16).
 - e. Understand your deliverance and the revelation of the apostles (6:17).
 - f. Pray for the believers in the body and for Paul that he might continue his revelation of the inclusion of Gentiles (6:18-20).
- IV. **Conclusion**: Desire that Tychicus and the letter might help them understand the truth of Paul's gospel despite Paul's imprisonment (6:21-24).