

Wrap Up

Ephesians 6:21-24

November 22, 2020

Big Idea of Ephesians

Many ways to summarize and carry forward this book
The character of Tychicus embodying the heart of the big idea
Tychicus serving as a bridge between imprisoned Paul and the Ephesians
I propose that the thesis statement of the letter is 1:10
To unite all things in Christ: things in heaven and things on earth
Everything meant to be together is coming back together
The mosaic artist and his piles of pieces
God and people, people and people, the self

God and People

Chapter 1:15-2:10
The great splintering of sin
The great grout of the blood of Jesus along with the resurrection
Made alive, raised, seated, saved for good works

People and People

Chapter 2:11-22 and 4:1-16 and 5:21-6:9
The multi-ethnic family of God (Jew and Gentile)
The church as a cohesive body of differently gifted folks working together in unity
The household marked by mutual submission, humility, and respect

The Integrated Self

Chapter 4:17-5:20 and 6:10-20
Put off the old self, put on the new self
Imitation of God (re-embracing the image of God)
Walk as children of light, congruent inside and out
Standing firm as God's ambassador warriors

Paul's Concluding Words

Peace, love from God, faith, grace, and love for Jesus
This is not a pile-on of cliches
Hearing these words in light of the ruling idea of reconciliation
Peace (shalom, wholeness: as the end state in all three relations above)
Love: the great motive and reservoir that moves God (that IS God)
Grace: the tangible extension of the love of God into the world
Faith: our hands that reach up to clasp the offered grace
Love for Jesus: the enduring resulting character of the redeemed

Carrying Ephesians Forward Practically

Each of us is a Tychicus, agent of reconciliation (bringing together what should be)
God/people., people/people, a person/self

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God: **Matt 5:9/Eph 5:1**

The story of Holly in the foodbank this week

Standing in the middle of reconciliation opportunities with love and wisdom

Practical Wisdom to be an effective Tychicus

Step in with love and respect for all parties: be present and wait

Do not attempt to fix the problem but wait for an invitation to bring perspective

The value of your perspective is that it comes from outside the entangled situation

To too quickly insert your opinions is to risk becoming a pawn in the problem

When invited, share your perspective humbly

How this plays out in the three contexts:

Reconciling God and an unbeliever/wounded believer:

- Come alongside the person with unconditional love

- Reflect your love and trust in God but do not come in as God's lawyer

- Wait until asked about how you think about God

- Share your thoughts humbly

Reconciling person and person

- Come alongside both persons if possible with unconditional love

- Do not take sides but assume the best of both parties

- Do not offer solutions but listen, love, pray, and remain present

- Wait until asked about how you think about the situation

- Share your thoughts humbly

- To avoid triangulation focus on what the person can do about him/herself

- Be patient and stay involved

Reconciling a person with the broken parts of him/herself

- Come alongside the person with unconditional love

- Wait until asked about how you think they could find help and healing

- Share your thoughts humbly

Hey everybody, think of this!

We could all become a Tychicus,

Bringing healing between this and this,

Masters of relational synthesis

If we're willing just to take a risk!

Highland Covenant could be good at this:

Raising up a Tychicus after Tychicus!
