

“PUT ON THE NEW SELF CREATED IN GOD’S WAY”

The Letter to the Ephesians

Who wrote The Letter to the Ephesians?	The Letter to the Ephesians was written by the Apostle Paul.
How did The Letter to the Ephesians get its name and/or what does that name mean?	The Letter to the Ephesians was named for the Church established in Ephesus.
When did these events take place?	The Letter to the Ephesians was probably written sometime between 61 and 63 A.D.
For more about The Letter to the Ephesians:	See page 1278 in the <u>Fireside Catholic Youth Bible</u> .

There’s a fascinating ritual that takes place in the winning locker room of a championship team – especially if it is on TV. As fast as they can, the winners pull over their heads a T-Shirt that proclaims them National Champions. It’s as if every player and coach can’t wait for the world to see them in their new role. They are no longer contenders for the championship – an equal to their opponents. They are now superior to them in this triumph and the t-shirt is a simple yet powerful way for them to let us see them in this new light. There is another interesting phenomenon that takes place here. Now that they’ve made it to this victory celebration, it doesn’t seem to matter how they got there. No one seems to care if some of the players may have played for this team for 10 years while a couple of them may have been acquired in a trade just before the play-offs. It doesn’t matter that some might be rookies while others are at the end of their careers. The one thing they have in common is they are all champions. Together, they are celebrating with and for each other.

In The Letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul reminds us how winning salvation through faith in Christ is kind of the same thing. He even tells us that when we put our total faith in Christ, like a championship T-shirt, we are putting on a new self created in God’s way. We are no longer struggling to find a way to win. Now, as members of this championship team, we celebrate with and for each other. Although he calls us all along the way, some people answer Christ sooner than others. Some of us never doubt from the day of our Confirmation when we took personal responsibility for our faith. Yet, others come to Christ late, after long years of denial and frustration. Paul reminds us in Ephesians that it doesn’t matter how we get there. The important thing is that we have put away our former selves and put on this new self, that tells the world that, in Christ, we are all champions.

The Letter to the Ephesians is actually a letter to the Church at large. It is one of the clearest statements of what faith in Jesus means. Paul makes it very clear that, through the merits of His life, death on the cross and resurrection, Christ has won for us access to heaven. Paul encourages the reader to accept this gift by living a Christ-like life and by celebrating with each other in the joy of eternal salvation.

Interesting Fact: The Letter to the Ephesians was the first of “the captivity letters” which Paul wrote while he was in prison, probably in Rome

Bonus Point: Does the Bible advise wives to be subordinate to their husbands?