

For reflection and discussion

1. The letter of Ephesians is not long. Try and make time this week to read it through at one sitting. Better still, try and read it though a number of times and attempt to get a sense of its overall message. Try and imagine you are reading it (or hearing it read) in the first century and it is to help you to understand what is involved in your commitment to “the way” of Christ.
2. If someone asked you to describe God’s vision for humanity in one sentence, what would you say?
3. Paul believed he was chosen called, and sent by God and so his message came with God’s authority. How do you treat scripture – as authoritative in your life or just optional perspectives and insights?
4. Believers in the early church needed to understand that relationship with Christ meant a commitment to the way of Christ. “The way” of Christ was frequently at odds with the ways of society. To which “way” do you give your allegiance—the way of Christ or the way(s) of society?
5. Not only does Paul believe he has been set apart for God, but he believe that believers are also to be set apart. Yet he realized that believers had two “homes” or “citizenships” – the earthly and the heavenly. Jesus said that his kingdom was not of this world. Believers in the Anabaptist tradition have often talked about “two kingdom theology” and emphasized that Christians are citizens of the international kingdom of believers, and this allegiance must be first in their lives. What do you think about this perspective and how should/could it be applied to our lives?

Start at the Beginning

(Message Series – *All Change: God’s Vision for Cosmic Change, #1*)
Pastor Alan Robinson, July 29, 2007

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 1:1-2 (church Bible page 827)

1. The _____

2. **The** _____

(a) S _____

(b) F _____

(c) I _____

(d) I _____

3. **The** _____