

## Week 2--Ephesus: Learning to Become Mature

### Background: Who Were the Ephesians?

**The Asiarchs:** They regulated the worship of Rome and of the emperor. While many presided over the public games and the religious rites in honor of the gods and the emperor, some handled the clerical work. We find the names of many Asiarchs on coins and inscriptions. The office could only be held by men of wealth, as the expenses of the provincial games were often paid for by the Asiarchs.

[classic.net.bible.org/dictionary.php](http://classic.net.bible.org/dictionary.php)

**The Aristocrats:** Not only did they live in beautiful homes near the theater, they also paid for the construction of the gymnasiums, the Odeon and other of places of public interest. They held power in the political governance of the city.

**The Slaves:** In *Rome* the slave population was around 25-40% of the population as a whole. In larger influential cities like Pergamum and Ephesus it was likely around 20-30 % of the population of the city.

**The Artisans:** In the 1st Century, it was common for artisans to form guilds organized around a patron idol. Usually, these guilds had an area in the city and a hall near the market square, which functioned as a center for the guild's religious and civic activities. We know that there was a guild of silversmiths in Ephesus and that Aquila and Priscilla worked as leather workers (tentmakers) in the city.

**Bitter. Lover of money. Blasphemer. Unwholesome talk. Greedy. Boast about what I have. Prostitute. Boast about what I've done. Craved. Hateful. Arrogant. Covetous. Slandered. Adulterer. Rage and anger. Malicious gossip. Dirty jokes. Homosexual. Alcoholic. Thief. Liar.**

### What had happened to them?

- Adopted—Wanted! Chosen! No “accidental” adoptions!
- Cleaned
- A treasured inheritance
- Chosen for good works
- Holy Spirit of God lives inside
- Power to live different
  - From surroundings
  - From Self

**Humble. Gentle. Patient. Bearing with one another. Speak truth. Work. Give generously. Building others up with my words. Kind. Compassionate. Forgiving. God's holy person. Thanksgiving. Good. Righteous. Truthful. Under the Influence—of the Holy Spirit. Speaking Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to others. Singing. Giving thanks. Submitting to each other.**

### What did that look like?



1. Confess
2. Disclose practices
3. Burn magic books



*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

**Ephesians 1:17-18, 3:16-21**

*Although we were dead in our sin and objects of God's wrath, He adopted us, cleaned us, chose us for good works, gifted us spiritually, put His Spirit in us and empowered us to live different from our surroundings and old self. That's why we are to live new and get rid of anything that doesn't belong to a holy life!*