



This is the third of four daily circles as the study of Ephesians and the book “*Ephesians: Building and Community in Christ*” by John Stott. On each of the days we will briefly complete:

- 1) Lesson Tasks: Study the scripture as it is illuminated in our targeted book
- 2) Circle Tasks: Reflect on one of four application principles: Upward, Inward, Downward and Outward
- 3) Inquiring Tasks: Do a little investigating that helps us keep thinking about the principles throughout our day

Lesson Tasks: Complete questions 6-8 and read the paragraph beginning “The statements in verses 5 and 9...” in the Chapter “A New Ministry” from *Ephesians: Building a Community in Christ* by John Stott. The author rightly summarizes that the Lord has created “a new international community, the church; that this church would be ‘the body of Christ,’ organically united to him; and that Jews and Gentiles would be incorporated into Christ and his church on equal terms, without any distinction”. This is a fundamental shift in how the world sees God’s people. Reflect below on any fundamental shifts in your thinking you may have has in your walk of faith:



Circle Tasks: Every day we focus on one application: Upward, Inward, Downward and Outward. Today we reflect **Downward**—putting away, putting down and casting aside what may hinder our relationship with the Lord and with others; contemplating what might make you “strong in the Lord and the strength of his might” Eph. 6:10

- 1) Living the reality that Jews and Gentiles are incorporated into Christ and his church on equal terms, without any distinction” may seem simple, but may still require an equally vital swing in our behavior. In last week’s live lesson, we discussed setting down prejudice, preference and intolerance. Do have a negative viewpoint about other denominations or even of Jews that might need reconsideration, correction or at least might need more investigation.

Inquiring Tasks:

- 1) To fully understand an issue, it’s worth learning more about the struggles of those that we respect. Billy Graham, perhaps the world’s best-known and beloved evangelist, had his own successes and challenges with [supporting, lauding and somewhat inadvertently being insensitive](#) to Jews.
- 2) [Got Questions](#) has a simple, scripturally-based article making suggestions about balancing care for people with telling the truth in love.

Tomorrow: Looking Outwardly

