

# The Other Theory of Relativity

**Big Idea: Paul's time in Ephesus (Acts 19) formed the foundation for a relationship that enabled him to be "real" with the Ephesians.**

## I. Paul establishes relationship

Paul entered Ephesus with a "bang". Ephesians who had been baptised into "John's baptism" (water baptism) were introduced to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This was Paul's "in". For the next three months, he spoke boldly in the synagogue "...*arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.*" (Acts 19:8b) He moved to the school of Tyrannus, where he taught effectively for two years.

Paul's ministry was Spirit-filled and powerful. This caused quite a stir – eventually catching the eye of the local businessmen who profited from making silver statues honouring the goddess Diana (Artemis). There was an uprising against the man who threatened their business and (to a lesser degree) their beliefs.

Paul managed to get out of Ephesus in one piece to go on to Macedonia. His journeys eventually led him to Jerusalem, where he was arrested.

## II. Paul reinforces relationship

When Paul writes to the Ephesians, he makes it very clear to them what their place is in the Kingdom. "...*He chose us in Him before the creation of the world...*" (Eph.1:4) "...*He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ...*" (Eph.1:5) "...*God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...*" (Eph.2:6) "*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away [Gentiles] have been brought near through the blood of Christ.*" (Eph.2:13)

Similarly, we are challenged (in Ephesians 4) to reinforce the unity we have in Christ. We are one body, "...*one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*" (Eph.4:5&6)

## III. Paul challenges those he is "related" to

### a. To walk in love

We need to be "imitators" of Christ. "...*live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*" (Eph.5:2)

### b. To walk in light

When we walk "in light" we'll bear the fruit of the light. "*Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.*" (Eph.5:8b-10)

### c. Walk in wisdom

"*Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*" (Eph.5:17)