

Ephesians

A CHURCH ALIVE IN CHRIST

MAY 28, 2023

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Ephesians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to Christians living in the city of Ephesus in order to strengthen their faith, promote their unity, and exhort them to holiness. He reminds them of God's great grace and the spiritual blessings every believer possesses. He prays for them to grow in their knowledge of God and what He has done for them in Christ. He emphasizes grace in the salvation of believers and prays that they would be able to comprehend the love of Christ and that they would be filled with the fullness of God.

MESSAGE TAKEAWAYS:

Week 2 we looked at Ephesians 1:3-14 and our reality as adopted sons and daughters of God. We looked at the heavenly reality fleshed out on this earth, as literal orphans of the Roman Empire were adopted by Christians. Our spiritual identity gets fleshed out in our earthly spaces and places. Take time as a group to reread this passage out loud. Invite any to share key words and phrases or repeated words that stand out in the passage. Feel free to have multiple readers in different translations (sometimes hearing the way others translate a word/phrase differently can shed more light on the truth the Holy Spirit wants us to hear.)

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- "All of these statements are what Christ has done for me - not what I have to do." As you sit with the words that came to mind as you read out loud together or from the list Pastor Brannon brought to our attention in the message, share how this truth has impacted your life. In what ways have you not been living in this truth? What does this truth of God's Word about who we are in Christ change about how we think & live in our everyday lives?

- “We run towards the darkness of our world with the courageous light of the Gospel because that is what Jesus did for us.”
 - How does this statement shape your life?
 - How was this shaped in the Roman Empire - that they weren't just given a spiritual identity but let that shape their earthly spaces too?
 - What are the spaces, places, and/or people God has entrusted to you?
- *As you share, pause and pray as the Holy Spirit leads for wisdom/discernment/ strength to be faithful with what the Father has entrusted to you as you seek to make much of Jesus every day to everyone.*

FINAL THOUGHTS:

*Pastor Brannon asked us “**Why these words?**” Even as you shared as a group, find space this week to journal or think through what the truth of each of these means for God to say this about **you!** Whether you have walked with Jesus for a few days to a few decades, sit and remember what God has done because of Jesus and how He now sees and calls you as His child!*

First Steps (IDENTIFY/PRAISE): Sit with these truths as a Child of God, offering praise to God for what He has done for you.

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|---------------|-------------|
| • Blessed | • Redeemed |
| • Chosen | • Forgiven |
| • Holy | • Lavished |
| • Blameless | • Inheritor |
| • Predestined | • Sealed |
| • Adopted | |

Next Steps (CONFESS/REPENT): As the Holy Spirit brings to mind things in your life or postures where you are not living in who He says you are, confess that to God and ask Him to give you faith to believe that He is enough.

As needed, ask for your community to pray with you or seek out a conversation with a Pastor: <https://ncchapel.churchcenter.com/people/forms/551596>