



Understanding Who I Am

Ephesians

Becoming Who We Are

So Far...

Ephesians: So Far



Setting

Written to the Church at Ephesus

Deep Relationship

- Paul 2nd Missionary Journey – Acts 18
- Amazing work of God – Acts 19:11-12

“And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.”

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- close relationship – Acts 20

Paul writing from Jail

1. We Are

- chosen by God 1:4
- adopted as children 1:5
- Redeemed 1:7
- Forgiven 1:7
- Given an Inheritance 1:11
- Sealed with Holy Spirit 1:13

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Paul Prays for Them 1:15-22

- hearing of their faith in Lord & love for one another
- Receive:
 - spirit of wisdom
 - revelation of the knowledge of Christ
 - eyes of their hearts enlightened

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2. Recall the Reality

a) We Were

- Dead in trespass & sin
- Sabotaged by Satan
- Sentenced for our Situation

But God “⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

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- motivated by love and mercy
- made us alive in Christ
- made us visible recipients
 - immeasurable kindness, grace
- made us to be participants

- Eph 2:8-10 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”

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b) One in Christ 2:11-22

- Old Reality – as Gentiles we....
 - separated, alienated, strangers, without hope
- Jesus Reconciled Us
 - dividing wall torn down, peace with God and others, equal access to Father
- New Reality – family
 - fellow citizens, very dwelling place of God

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3. No Longer a Mystery 3:1-13

- clear to all, through Jesus

- fellow heirs, members of one body, partakers in the promises of God

- we are to be a witness visible in heavens and on earth

- Paul Prays that God would

- strengthen the inner man

- rooted and grounded in love

- strengthened to comprehend

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4. Walk in a Manner Worthy

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

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a) Call to Christian Unity

- posture matters – humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another, eager to maintain.

b) Recognize the Gifts and Plan of God 4:7-16

- every believer has a spiritual gift
- God decides what gift he gives
- Distinct roles to the gifts
 - equip for works of service
 - ministry to the body of Christ

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- when using the gifts
 - speak the truth in love
 - connected and joined – together

c) Embracing New Life in Christ

- no longer walk as Gentiles do
 - darkened understanding, alienated from the life of God, ignorant of Christ, hard hearts, callous, greedy to practice impurity

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- Put off the Old Self
- Put on New Self 4:20-25

“But that is not the way you learned Christ!—²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

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- change your clothes

 - off with – falsehood, sinful anger, theft, corrupt talk

 - on with – truth, meekness, honest work, generosity, building up, blessing

- put off – bitterness, wrath, slander, malice

- put on – kindness, tender hearted, forgiving

³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

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So What

1. Remember Reality

- once dead in sin, separated from God, without hope
- we are chosen, redeemed, forgiven, sealed, given and inheritance

2. One Family

- all come to relationship with God the same way
- reconciled through Christ – able to have peace with God and one another

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So What

3. God has a plan and role for us
 - to be visible and evident
 - gifted, empowered, participants with God
4. Given who we are – walk in a manner worthy
 - embrace new life in the family
 - put off
 - put on
5. Ask God to reveal to you, read Ephesians