

## *Our Identity In Christ*

### **WHO HE IS IN US – *From Ephesians***

Who Are We In Christ?

1. He has **called us** to be His saints (v. 1). Remember: US; WE are Jewish believers, or the first.
2. **He called us** to be faithful in Christ Jesus (vs. 1).
3. **Give to us Grace and Peace** “..from God *our* Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ”(vs. 2).
4. God our Father and the **Lord Jesus Christ is BLESS-ED** (v. 3).
5. **Blessed us** *with all spiritual blessings* in Heavenly *places* **in Himself** (v. 3).
6. **Chosen us to be in Him** from the very foundations of the world (v. 4).
7. That we should be (**considered us to be**) holy and without blame before Him in love (vs 4).
8. **Predestinated/adopted us..**as children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will (v.5).
9. **He has accepted us in the beloved** (“...to the praise of the glory of his grace”) (v. 6).
10. **Redeemed us** (considered; determined) by *His own precious blood* according to the riches of His grace (v. 7).

**NOTE:** We have redemption ...(Vs. 7)

Means "to send off or away." In Scripture this means separating the sinner from his sin. God accomplishes forgiveness by transferring our sin to Christ on the cross and judging it there. When someone receives Christ, he is forgiven by means of this transfer.

**An example:** When Cain was discouraged by his failure to be accepted by God, he was invited to make a sin offering (a "type" of Calvary) and therefore resolve the problem of his sin (Gen 4:6,7). In applying this to today, when we are forgiven, we also ought to be forgiving in our attitude toward others (see Matthew 6:14,15).

11. “*He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence*” (v. 8).
12. “Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure (v.9).
13. “That in the **dispensation of the fullness of times** he *might gather together in one\** all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on the earth; *even* in Him: (v. 10). \*meaning the entire family of God from Israel to the most unwelcome in our mainline churches!
14. “In whom **also** we hath obtained an inheritance, being predestinated (predetermined; considered) according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will” (v. 11).
15. “That **we** should be to the praise of his glory, *who first trusted in Christ*” (v.12).
16. “In whom **ye** also trusted, after that **ye** heard the word of truth, the gospel of **your** salvation; in whom also after that **ye** believed, **ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise**” (v. 13).
17. “**Which is the earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory” (v. 14).
18. **The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of His of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,”
19. “and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His might power”

20. “Which He worked in Christ when **He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places**”
21. “**far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name** that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”
22. “**And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church**, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

## ***Our Identity In Christ\****

### **THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS**

In Ephesians Paul paints the church with multifarious splendor: He depicts her as:

- God’s Inheritance (1:11)
- Christ’s Body, His fullness (1:22-23)
- God’s Masterpiece (2:10)
- The One new person (2:15)
- The Household of God (2:19)
- The habitation of God (2:21-22)
- The vessel for God to display His wisdom (3:10)
- The body equaling Christ’s full stature (5:23-32)
- The object of Christ’s love (5:25)
- The very members of Christ’s body (5:30)
- God’s warrior against Satan (6:11-18)

Paul wanted his readers to see God’s eternal purpose for the church. With such a high calling and privilege, believers, as individuals and as a local group, should settle for nothing less.

Today many Christians take their faith and their church for granted. Thus, they become critical of fellow believers, the worship services, and church leaders, and often they become susceptible to wrong doctrines. As you read Ephesians, examine your attitudes in light of Paul’s description of the church, the body of Christ.

## ***Our Identity In Christ***

### **WHO WE ARE IN HIM**

- Romans 3:24.....We are justified (declared "not guilty" of sin).
- Romans 8:1.....We await no condemnation.
- Romans 8:2.....We are set free from the law of sin and death.
- 1 Corinthians 1:2.....We are sanctified and made acceptable in Jesus Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 1:30.....We are righteous and holy in Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 15:22 .....We will be made alive at the Resurrection.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 .....We are a new creation.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 .....We receive God's righteousness.
- Galatians 3:28.....We are one in Christ with all other believers.
- Ephesians 1:3 .....We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- Ephesians 1:4 .....We are holy, blameless, and the objects of God's love.
- Ephesians 1:5-6.....We are adopted as God's children.
- Ephesians 1:7 .....We are forgiven-our sins are taken away.
- Ephesians 1:10-11.....We will be brought under Christ's headship.

Ephesians 1:13 .....We are marked as belonging to God by the Holy Spirit.  
 Ephesians 2:6 .....We have been raised up to sit with Christ in glory.  
 Ephesians 2:10 .....We are God's work of art.  
 Ephesians 2:13 .....We have been brought near to God.  
 Ephesians 3:6 .....We share in the promises of the gospel.  
 Ephesians 3:12 .....We can come with freedom and confidence into God's presence.  
 Ephesians 5:29-30.....We are members of Christ's body, the church.  
 Colossians 2:10.....We have been given fullness in Christ.  
 Colossians 2:11 .....We are set free from our sinful nature.  
 2 Timothy 2:10.....We will have eternal glory.  
 Because God has already blessed believers, we need not ask for these blessings but simply accept them and apply them to our lives. Because we have an intimate relationship with Christ, we can enjoy these blessings now and will enjoy them for eternity.

*The phrase **heavenly places** occurs five times in this letter (Ephesians):*

1. Believers are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the "heavenly places" (1:3).
2. Christ is seated at God's right hand in the "heavenly places" (1:20).
3. We have been raised up to sit with Christ in the "heavenly places" (2:6).
4. God is being made known to the rulers and authorities in the "heavenly places" (3:10).
5. We struggle against the spiritual forces of evil in the "heavenly places" (6:12).

### ***Our Identity In Jesus Christ***

In Ephesians Paul paints the church with multifarious splendor: He depicts her as:

- God's Inheritance (1:11)
- Christ's Body, His fullness (1:22-23)
- God's Masterpiece (2:10)
- The One new person (2:15)
- The Household of God (2:19)
- The habitation of God (2:21-22)
- The vessel for God to display His wisdom (3:10)
- The body equaling Christ's full stature (5:23-32)
- The object of Christ's love (5:25)
- The very members of Christ's body (5:30)
- God's warrior against Satan (6:11-18)

**Repeat:** Paul wanted his readers to see God's eternal purpose for the church. With such a high calling and privilege, believers, as individuals and as a local group, should settle for nothing less.

Today many Christians take their faith and their church for granted. Thus, they become critical of fellow believers, the worship services, and church leaders, and often they become susceptible to wrong doctrines. As you read Ephesians, examine your attitudes in light of Paul's description of the church, the body of Christ. And consider how you might encourage and strengthen fellow believers and spiritual leaders.

\*Life application Bible commentary