

Ephesians – Your Identity in Christ

1:1-14

1 “in Christ”

Breakdown: Chapter 1-3 _____
Chapter 4-6 Behavior

You cannot do the practical until you understand the principles.

Person: Paul

Date: 60-62 AD

Place: Rome under _____

Destination: Encyclical Letter

Key Words: In Christ-15 times, in various forms 35 times.

In Greek- vs _____ comprise a single sentence.

1. Being “In Christ” means that we _____ nothing. - vs. 3

Everything you need to be accomplish the will of God in your life.

We are to only ask for one thing.... wisdom. Why? Wisdom helps us appropriate!

The Holy Spirit, who dwells within provides everything we need to accomplish God’s will and the resources come from the very existence of God!

2. Being “in Christ” means you are God’s _____ choice. – vs. 4

We are chosen by God completely independent of any outside influences!

Sovereignty of God & Human Responsibility forms an antinomy.

“an apparent contradiction between two equally valid principles”

God not only chose who would be saved but also how they would be saved, through their own choice.

Election is never taught in Scripture for the lost. It is a doctrine for the saved.

Whenever the Scripture addresses the lost – it is always “whosoever will.”

Our worth comes from the fact that we are the objects of God’s choice.

- Everything allowed in our life by God is for His glory and our good.
- Our sufferings have meaning and purpose in God’s eternal plan.

God’s purpose of election:

Holy –set apart unto God

- Intimacy

Blameless - Amomos -- without blemish or spot

- Integrity

As a Christian, being chosen by God unto salvation does not breed arrogance but ought to bring us to our knees in humbleness as to why would God chose a filthy rotten sinner like me. The incredible love of God.

3. Being “in Christ” means you _____ – vs. 5

_____ deals with people

Predestination deals with purposes

Adoption as sons

We can immediately begin to claim our inheritance and enjoy our spiritual wealth.

according to His favor and will,

Favor – pleasure – favoring one alternative over another.

4. Being “in Christ” means you are unconditionally _____ – vs. 6

Rejection is never an option or desire of God -EVER!

In praising God for what He does, we learn to praise Him for what He is.

Accepted – graced – favored (verb form only used twice in the NT)

Acceptance with God is unchanged and unchangeable.

Acceptance - not due to performance but God’s grace.

God rejects our performances but never our personage.

5. Being “in Christ” means you are _____ – vss. 7,8

Redemption

To be release or delivered from the state of slavery.

The Price - The blood of Christ

The sinner stands before God as a slave but receives freedom

Forgiveness of sins

Aphesis – to send off

To receive forgiveness, one must accept responsibility for sin.

God accepts us because of our union in Christ.

Still feel guilty or inferior - because YOU don’t understand God.

According to the riches of His grace.
not out of but according to

Lavished – super abounded – it is oversized grace.

Where sin has abounded, God sends super abounded grace full of wisdom and a spiritual GPS to move us forward in our lives.

6. In Christ means that God has a planned that has not _____, nor can it change nor, will it change and no one or nothing can change it. vss. 9,10
7. In Christ means we are of personal worth and _____ to God – vss. 11,12
8. In Christ means that we have a completely _____ future. vss. 13,14

Sealing means:

1. Finished transaction
2. Ownership
3. Security

First installment with the promise of completion.

Constant exhortation without understanding of basic theology brings guilt!

Application:

1. Being “In Christ” means that we lack nothing, learn to appropriate.
2. Being “in Christ” means you are God’s personal choice.
3. Being “in Christ” means you belong – you are not alone, you have family.
4. Being “in Christ” means you are unconditionally accepted – no fear of rejection.
5. Being “in Christ” means you are free – from the condemning voices in your head.
6. In Christ means that God has a planned that has not change, nor can it change nor, will it change and no one or nothing can change it.
7. In Christ means we are of personal worth and value to God.
8. In Christ means that we have a totally and completely secure future.

Choose one and dwell upon that truth this week.

Let it work its way into your soul.