

Sermon Notes – May 11, 2025

Becoming Who You Are: A Study from The Book of Ephesians

Week 1: In Christ – The Cure for The Identity Crisis

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SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1:3-14; 16-21 NLT

“³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, ¹² for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. ¹³ God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹⁴ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own ¹⁵ by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁶ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him... ¹⁷ I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, ¹⁸ asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom ¹⁹ and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. ²⁰ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. ²¹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²² that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²³ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

1) WHAT'S MY POSITION?

- Who am I? When we don't know our identity, it is like playing a sport without knowing our position.
- Circumstances, words spoken, or wrong beliefs can leave us feeling like we are a victim of Identity Theft.
- We need to know who we are, or we will seek for other things to define us (ex. accomplishments, peers, circumstances, past, behaviours, desires, etc...)

- Knowing who you are, and who He created you to be is key to living a transformed, healthy and thriving life.

2) "IN CHRIST" - POSITIONED FOR GREATNESS

- Identity is important because we become what we believe!
- We cannot live out, and up to our full Kingdom potential as individuals/church until we know our position in Christ.
- Who we are, our identity, needs to be found in Christ.
- You are positioned for greatness, because you are in Christ! (v. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13[x2])
- In Him we are Saints, Blessed, Chosen, Loved, Adopted, Valued, Redeemed, Free, Rich, Marked/Sealed...
- In Him we find hope, belonging, and purpose.

3) EMPOWERED FOR CHANGE

- Conquering old beliefs, mindsets, and behaviours is hard, but you have the power in Christ to overcome & live a transformed life.
- Paul's prayer for the church was that we would know God more, know who we are, and that we would know, display, and live in the immeasurable greatness of the available power and resources found in Christ.
- We have been empowered to live a transformed life in Christ!