

# TRUE IDENTITY



In Him We Are Blessed  
February 16, 2020

*1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:*

*2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

*11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*

*Ephesians 1:1-15*

## **WEEKLY SERMON REFLECTION**

- ◆ How did the sermon this week from the passages above speak to you personally?
- ◆ Why is that important to you?
- ◆ What part of this truth is the biggest challenge?

## **HEAD**

- ◆ This passage lists several things God has done for us - which of the following truths do you need to remind yourself today?
  - Vs. 4 - He chose you.
  - Vs. 5 - He adopted you as sons (and daughters) - we are joint heirs with Jesus.
  - Vs. 6 - He gives you grace - things we don't deserve.
  - Vs. 7 - He has redeemed you - He bought us back from being owned by sin.
  - Vs. 7 - He forgave your sins - He wiped your debt clean.
  - Vs. 7/8 - He lavishes His grace on you - abundantly gives you more than you deserve.

Life Group Discussion Guide  
Wheaton Bible Church, Tri-Village Church, and Iglesia del Pueblo



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- Vs. 9 - He reveals His will to you - He lets us know what he plans and wants from us.
- Vs. 10 - He brings unity - He's in process of restoring creation to its original goodness.
- ◆ Vs. 13-14 Do you think about the Holy Spirit, His role in your life and guarantee He is of things to come?

## **HEART**

- ◆ In verse 5 and verse 11, Paul tells us that God predestined you and me to be saved by his grace. If you deeply understood that before you were born, God planned to have you as part of His family, what difference would that make in how you go about today?
- ◆ How do you view your identity incorrectly based on the things Paul says should define us?
- ◆ In verse 12, Paul not only tells that we were predestined, but shares the reason that God chose you - "for the praise of his glory". That phrase is easy to skip by. The Holman Christian Standard version translates it this way - "might bring praise to His glory." You were predestined/chosen so that you would praise God and therefore bring Him glory. If you step back from your last week, is praising God what would describe how you lived? Why?

## **ACTION**

- ◆ In Ephesians 6, Paul discusses the belt of truth. What is one truth you need to self-preach this week to help you bind your life together?
- ◆ How can you better build praising God into your life? What might that look like? How can we as a group help?

