



EPHESIANS: BECOMING WHO WE ARE

**“God’s Incredible
Master Plan”**

Ephesians 1:1-14

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1. The Author: The Apostle Paul

2. The Aim: Becoming who we are in Christ Jesus

“The church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought. It is not an accident of history. On the contrary, the church is God's new community. For His purpose...is not just to save individuals and so perpetuate our loneliness, but rather to build up his church, that is, to call out of the world a people for his own glory.”

(The Living Church, pgs. 19-20) John Stott

“It is not that I belong to God and then make a decision to join a church. My being in Christ means being in Christ with others who are in Christ. This is my identity. This is our identity...If the church is the body of Christ, then we should not live as disembodied Christians.

(Total Church, pg. 41) Steve Timmis

3. The Audience: Faithful saints at Ephesus **vs. 1-2**

4. His Anthology: His master plan **vs. 3-14**

A. The Father – He Conceived the Plan of Salvation vs. 3-6

1) He has blessed us v. 3, James 1:17, Philippians 4:19

“God cannot give us more than He has already given us in His Son. There is nothing more to receive. The believers need, therefore, is not to receive something more but to do something more with what he has.” John McArthur

“Christ riches are our riches, His resources are our resources, His righteousness is our righteousness, and His power is our power. His position is our position, where He is, we are. His privilege is our privilege: what He is we are. His possessions is our possession: what He has, we have. His practice is our practice: what He does, we do.” John McArthur

2) He has chosen us v. 4, John 15:6, 1 John 4:10, 19

In the early Church, the Christian never had any doubt that he must be different from the world; he in fact, knew that he must be so different that the probability was that the world would kill him and the certainty was that the world would hate him. But the tendency of the modern church has been to play down the difference between the Church and the world. We have, in effect, often said to people: So long as you live a decent, respectable life, it is quite all right to become a Church member and to call yourself a Christian. You don't need to be so very different from other people.” William Barclay 1954

3) He has adopted us v. 5, Galatians 4:1-7

4) He has graced us vs. 6

B. The Son – He carried out the plan vs. 7-12

1) He has redeemed us vs. 7a

I Peter 1:18-19, Colossians 1:13-14

2) He has forgiven us vs. 7b-8a

Psalms 103:12, Micah 7:18-19, I John 1:9, Romans 8:1-2

3) He has revealed His will vs. 8b-10 (NLT)

4) He has given us an inheritance vs. 11-12

C. The Holy Spirit-He continues (empowers) the plan vs. 13-14

1) He has sealed us vs. 13

2) He has given us a pledge vs. 14

Our Response:

- 1) What is the master plan? How does it affect your view of God when you see this master plan laid out before the foundation of the world?
- 2) How does this passage contribute and deepen your understanding of the Trinity – the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit? Why is this important?
- 3) How does it make you feel to know the incredible spiritual blessings that you have in Christ? What difference do these blessings make?
- 4) Which of these blessings listed take on the most meaning for you personally? Describe why.
- 5) What difference will these foundational truths make in your life this week? Describe the impact they should have for you & others.