

Ephesians Recap

Houses of Light Church

Pastor Netz Gomez & Ilse Marquez

October 13, 2024

Here's where we've been the last few weeks:

- We received amazing and powerful teaching during Passion for Jesus!
 - We realized that we couldn't just move on from these words, so we spent some time going over these topics:
 - Finding our place in the prophecies
 - We are in an Isaiah 6 moment
 - The table of the Lamb
- Last week we learned a little bit of the story of Houses of Light and started dreaming together for what the future could be. We saw how every step of the way the Lord has met us in mighty and powerful ways as we have taken leaps of faith! We believe it is time for our next leap of faith, so we started a pledge drive as we believe the Lord for new facilities and resources so we can continue His work in our city!

Today we are returning to our Ephesians series.

Check in: What do you remember from what we've learned in Ephesians so far?

Key passage: **Ephesians 1:1-14**

Let's read it together— underline, highlight, or circle the parts that stand out to you!

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his

grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Here's what the Lord has been teaching us in the book of Ephesians:

1. How to live in our identity — what does it mean to be a son/daughter of the living God?

Every child of God is called **holy, faithful, blessed, chosen, adopted, accepted, redeemed, an heir, and sealed**. This is who the Father and the Son made us. In His eyes, this is who we are. Now, we get to train, learn, and practice so we can actually live like who we already are! **Each one of us needs to live in the identity the Father gave us through Christ.**

God didn't only give us a glorious identity in Christ, but actually He also blessed us in heavenly places with every blessing and the first of these blessings is that he **chose us** since before the foundation of the earth to be His sons and daughters.

When we believe in the gospel, He adopts us — not because there's anything special in us to qualify us for His family, but simply because of His glorious grace! (Ephesians 2:8-9) — He chose us not because of our merits or qualifications, but simply because He wanted to choose us.

This changes everything. We don't live trying to earn His love or deserve His grace but rather we live practicing and walking out in the identity He already gave us because we love Him.

2. We are redeemed in Christ! (Eph. 1:7)

This glorious redemption covers the past, present and future:

- A. PAST:** Because of the price Jesus paid on the cross by His blood, He rescues from the guilt of breaking God's law and our past is resolved. Now we are forgiven, no longer guilty before God.
- B. FUTURE:** Our redemption will be complete in the future when He removes every defect from our body and soul (Eph. 1:14). Our future redemption includes rescuing us from all disease, depression, and decay in our glorified bodies!
- C. PRESENT:** Between the forgiveness of our sins and the final redemption, we have our present redemption. Today, Jesus rescues us from the inheritance of brokenness in our family lines. (1 Peter 1:18) In this time, He is freeing us from our vain and sinful way of living.

There is no part of our lives that His redemption cannot reach!

3. We exist for the praise of His glory (Eph. 1:7 & 14)

We will never come to the end of the riches of His grace, which He poured out on us so we could understand the mystery of His will (Eph. 1:8). The knowledge of His will is grace poured out.

The primary purpose of our lives and all of history is to highlight the riches of God's grace. This will be our task throughout eternity because there is so much of God's grace that this lifetime is not enough time to even scratch the surface! **When we start to understand His grace and His glory, we are filled with praise and thanksgiving and long to know His greatness even more!**

4. Christ is the center of everything (Eph. 1:10)

The Lord decided that everything that would happen in creation would point to Jesus, with the goal of bringing everything together in Him. This is the great mystery of His will and the trajectory of all of history. Why? because Christ is worthy of being at the center.

This is who He is:

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. **Colossians 1:15-20***

If this is the way God manages the history of the universe, it must also be the way we manage our lives, families, businesses, etc. This is what it looks like in practical life:

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20***

5. **God is the one who makes everything happen** (Eph. 1:11)

God does not ask us how to do things, but He does moves according to the “purpose” of His will. He is going to make sure that everything happens; this is His sovereignty over everything; His counsel will stand. He will always does what He says He’s going to do. We can know without a shadow of a doubt that God will steer history to fulfill His will and His plan, and yet He gives us a part in His story:

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10**

We are no longer who we were before we met Him. We get to renew our minds and dress ourselves in the “new man” who was created to be like God in righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:23-24). This is something we do by faith! God equips us by his grace to make different choices and walk in new ways — both our desire to do good and our ability to do it come from Him: *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.* **Phil. 2:13**

6. **All of these blessings become ours in Christ** (Eph. 1:13)

To believe in the word of truth which is Christ and the gospel of our salvation is to receive Christ and **when we have Him we have every blessing**. Now, both Jew and Gentile who have heard the gospel and believed in Christ have each been sealed with the Holy Spirit that had been promised since the Old Testament (Eph. 3:6). As believers, we receive the seal of God because we were chosen and redeemed, and **we are marked by the Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of all the inheritance that God prepared for us**.

Reflection Questions:

1. **Which of the teachings from Ephesians impacted you the most? Why?**
2. **What keeps you from walking fully in your identity in Christ?**
3. **Do you have any doubts or questions about the teachings from this letter? Talk with your friendship group leader.**

Announcements:

1. October 31st, we have a family festival called Hallelujah Night! We need candy donations and volunteers to help us! If you’d like to join the team, talk to our kid’s ministry leaders and/or bring a bag of candy to our next service!
2. The prayer room staff is doing missions all over California this week, which means that our prayer room will be closed during the evenings (though it will be open from 7 AM to noon Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) – Regular hours will return next Monday!
3. If you need more information about any of the events we talk about, or you want to get connected with a friendship group, our website is now available in English at: housesoflight.church! (You can also find all of our Ephesians series teaching videos and notes on the website!)