

“Through Christ and in Christ, we are nothing less than God’s new society, the single new humanity which he is creating and includes Jews and Gentiles on equal terms. We are the family of God the Father, the body of Jesus Christ his Son, and the temple and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.”

John Stott

God's Eternal Plan - Heaven and Earth United Under the Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:9,10)

God's Earthly Plan - Jews and Gentiles United Under the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2:14-17)

God's Local Church Plan - Brothers and Sisters United Under the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 4:1-6)

God’s eternal plan in Christ:

“making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, **to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and on earth.**”

Ephesians 1:9-10

God’s earthly plan in Christ:

“**that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”

Ephesians 2:15-16

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him, you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:19-22

God's local plan in Christ: The church

"I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**"

Ephesians 4:1-3

Chapter 1-3 Our positional oneness in Christ.

Chapter 4-6 Our practical oneness in Christ.

We are to become practically what we are positionally in Christ.

Remember the Miracle

Ephesians 1:1



“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.”

Ephesians 1:1

Bryan Chapell

“Paul is not an apostle because of his record. He is an apostle because of Christ’s redemption. Jesus had corrected him, claimed him, and commissioned him. Paul could well confess that he was the greatest of sinners, yet he could still speak for God, because it was God’s will for him to do so. What a message of comfort that is for us, too. When others who know about our past life question what right we have to speak for God—when they know the faults and failings in our personal history, we can say like the apostle Paul, ‘Were my speaking based on my doing, then I would have no right to speak. But God corrected me, claimed me, and commissioned me to speak of himself. Because God wants me to speak, I have a right to speak.’”

“The greatest evidence to Paul of the power of God’s Word and God’s will to overcome overwhelming opposition is the work of God in his own life. His apostleship is not only for the attestation of the truths of God, it is a testimony to the power of God—a message that life can be different, that change is possible, that the greatest challenges to the gospel can be overcome.”

Bryan Chapell

Christ Jesus has appointed his chief opponent as his primary proponent.



Recognize How Valuable
God's People Are In Christ's
Eyes.

Ephesians 1:1

“To the saints who are in Ephesus
and are faithful in Christ Jesus.”

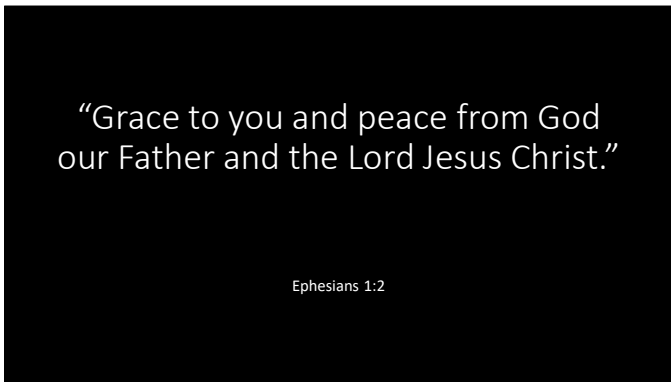
Ephesians 1:1

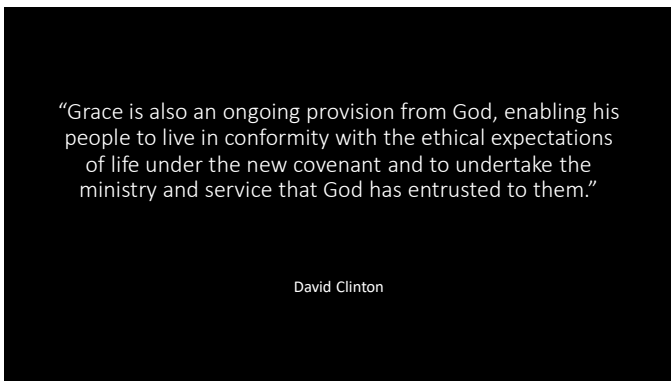
“The message of the church as God’s new creation and new community is of particular importance to those of us who call ourselves or are called ‘evangelical’ Christians. For us by temperament and tradition, we tend to be rugged individualists and are thought to care little about the church... Yet they should not be. The true evangelical, who derives his theology from the Bible, will be bound to have the very high view of the church which the Bible has. Today, more than ever, we need to catch a biblical vision of the church.”
 John Stott

Unity is driven by our shared identity as God’s holy people. We are to view one another as positionally set apart by God and holy in His sight. We are to see each other the way that God sees us in Jesus Christ.

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ as loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
 Ephesians 4:32-5:2







We need to listen to Paul's prayers in Ephesians.

They speak of the power and possibility of the church becoming who Christ bought her to become.

"Now to Him who is able to do far more than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

"...that you might know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe..."

Ephesians 1:18-19
