

# **CITYWEST CHURCH**

## **14.09.2025 - 10 AM**

### **EPHESIANS PART #1**

### **SENT BECAUSE WE ARE CHOSEN**

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.<sup>[b]</sup> **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,<sup>[c]</sup> for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

**12** God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. **13** 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 by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. **14** 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.

#### **Ephesians 1:3-14 (NLT)**

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?"

I said, "Here I am. Send me."

#### **Isaiah 6:8 (NLT)**

*Ok Church, here we go with a series based on our wider theme of the year, which is Here I am send me. We are going to spend the next 4 weeks in Ephesians as we seek to flesh out this statement that carries an internal strength and a practical witness.*

*Paul writes Ephesians 1-2 years before his death, it is close to his heart and has had a star-studded leadership in Priscilla and Aquila, Apollos, and Timothy, and not to mention the Apostle Paul himself.*

*Ephesus is a warning to all of us who are followers of Christ because within 60 years this great church heard those fateful words from the lips of their Lord, "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love." (Rev 2:4+)*

*It pulls on the tension that very much exists for us as believers still today, and that is the vertical blessing of being God's child and the responsibility of the horizontal to our fellow man*

<b>EPH 1-3</b>	<b>EPH 4-6</b>
The root	The fruit
Spiritual wealth	Spiritual walk
Christian privilege	Christian conduct
The position of the believer	The practice of the believer
God sees us in Christ	The world sees Christ in us
Privilege	Practice
Doctrine	Duty
Doctrinal	Practical
Revelation	Responsibility
Belief	Behaviour
Heavenly standing	Earthly walk

*There is more but it makes the point, Ephesians is call for us as believers not live as individuals but to unite in Christ as the church and in doing so show Christ to a hurting world by understanding and taking responsibility for what we have in Christ right now and into eternal life.*

*Ephesians really challenges us not to scare people into heaven with rule keep but paints the blessing it is to know Christ and the responsibility to share that with those in our world.*

*With all that said, lets now look at some key points from the passage in Ephesians in light of us saying here I am send me , knowing what we already have in Christ.*

*That's not just Isaiah's call. It's the heartbeat of the Christian life. To follow Jesus is to say yes — to be willing, available, and ready to be sent by Him into His purposes.*

*But here's the thing: before we can live sent, we have to understand why. The "send me" doesn't come from guilt, fear, or performance. It comes from knowing who we are in Christ. And that's exactly where Paul starts in Ephesians 1.*

## 1. BLESSED WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING.

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

**Eph 1:3-4 (NLT)**

*Not some. Not a starter pack. Every spiritual blessing.*

*This means we live and serve not from lack but from fullness.*

*The “send me” posture doesn’t start with striving, but with gratitude.*

*John Stott - “The Christian life is essentially a response to what God has done.”*

*Before you think about where God might send you — to your workplace, your family, your city — remember you already carry the blessing and presence of Christ with you.*

## 2. CHOSEN AND ADOPTED AS CHILDREN.

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.

### EPH 1:5-6 (NLT)

*To be chosen means you're not an accident, not overlooked, not forgotten.*

*To be adopted means you're brought near, given a name, and secured in His love.*

*This identity is the foundation of mission. We don't say, "Send me, so I can prove myself." We say, "Send me, because I already belong."*

*Roman adoption key points*

*In Roman law, adoption (adoptio or adrogatio) meant a complete transfer of identity.*

*Adoption placed the child on equal footing with natural-born children, including inheritance.*

*In Roman society, adoption canceled all prior debts and obligations tied to the old family.*

*Roman fathers had ultimate authority over their household, including life and death over children.*

*Adoption meant coming under the power and protection of a new father.*

*Roman adoption was permanent—an adopted child could not be disowned, unlike biological children.*

*Roman adoption was a formal, legal, and public act—sealed before witnesses.*

***ADOPTION ISN'T FLIMSY ITS CONCRETE, GOD ADOPTED US IN ADVANCE.***

### 3. SEALED BY THE SPIRIT FOR MISSION.

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 by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. **14** 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.

#### **Ephesians 1:13-14 (NLT)**

*The Spirit is God's stamp of ownership: "You are mine."*

*The Spirit is also God's empowering presence: He equips us for the sending.*

*This means "Here I am, send me" is not bravado — it's Spirit-filled confidence.*

*So why do we say, "Here I am, send me"?*

*Because we're blessed in Christ.*

*Because we're chosen and adopted.*

*Because we're sealed and empowered by the Spirit.*

*That's our foundation. Before we step into the action of chapters 4–6, we sit in the truth of chapters 1–3. Mission flows from identity.*

Prayer for the week:

"Father, thank You that I am chosen, loved, and sealed by Your Spirit. Here I am. Send me today — into whatever You have prepared."

## CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Ephesians 1 says we have been given *every spiritual blessing in Christ*. How does starting from fullness rather than lack change the way we think about being “sent” into our families, workplaces, and communities?
2. Paul uses the image of adoption to describe our new identity in Christ. How does knowing you are chosen and permanently secured in God’s family shape your confidence to say, “Here I am, send me”?
3. The Holy Spirit is described as both a guarantee of our inheritance and the One who empowers us for mission. Where have you experienced the Spirit giving you courage, wisdom, or strength to step into God’s calling — and where do you need His empowering presence now?