

EPHESIANS

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

STUDY
NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In Christ

1 Have you ever moved towns or schools or taken a new job and entered a brand-new environment where no one knew you? How did you process the opportunity to re-invent yourself?

2 Have you ever had the desire to have the opportunity to re-invent who you are with people who don't already have you defined? What caused you to have that desire?

3 Read Ephesians 1:3-14. What are some of the outcomes of the new Identity we have "In Christ"? List them.

4 According to verse 4, What did God choose from before the creation of the world? According to this verse, did he choose people to be in or out of heaven or for something else? Hint: The words "to be" give away what the choosing was for.

5 According to verse 13, how do we become part of this "Chosen" group? How might this differ from a perspective that God predetermined everything and we are pawns?

6 How would you describe God's sovereignty and human free will and responsibility working together?

7 Which of the spiritual blessings listed impacts you most? Which do you have questions of? Is it hard for you to accept these as declarations rather than trying to live into them and earn them? If so...why?

8 Pray for each other.

9 Pray for your church. Community. World.

Ephesians 1:3-14

Spiritual Blessings in 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, 4even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

11In 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, 12so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13In 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, 14who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.