

Connected
“The Family of God, Connected in Christ”
Ephesians 1:1-12

- I. Message – The Family of God, connected in Christ
 - a. We are (hopefully) the Faithful in Christ Jesus – v.1
 - i. Paul was writing to the “saints in Ephesus”
 - ii. But it could be ANY church, any city, at ANY time
 - iii. Because it is also the “faithful in Christ Jesus”
 - iv. Notice the connection: “**in Christ Jesus**”
 - b. We are the recipients of grace and peace through Christ Jesus – v.2
 - i. God’s grace was literally incarnated **in Jesus**
 - ii. What is grace? Good stuff undeserved
 - 1. Grace for salvation, the best thing to the most undeserving
 - 2. Peace with God made possible **by Jesus** payment on the cross
 - c. We are the Blessed in Christ Jesus – v.3
 - i. Spiritual blessings (in this context) = coming from the Holy Spirit
 - ii. What spiritual blessings do those in the body have in common?
 - 1. The rest of this chapter mentions several
 - 2. We have these spiritual blessing in common **in Christ**
 - d. We are the Chosen in Christ Jesus – v.4
 - i. He has chosen us before the foundation of the world!
 - ii. When I realize I am chosen in **Christ** before the foundation of the world, I’m somebody!
 - 1. How humbling! (I don’t deserve that)
 - 2. How unifying! (you are chosen too!)
 - e. We are the Adopted because of Christ Jesus – v.5
 - i. God predestined us to be His sons
 - ii. He did not simply choose to save us, but to give us a position of honor and love in the family!
 - 1. Paul in Romans 8
 - 2. We get to call Him “Abba, Father” (Daddy)
 - f. We are the Accepted in Christ Jesus – v.6
 - i. Accepted into the family and accepted into the throne room
 - ii. To the praise of His glory
 - iii. You could say it this way: God is so proud to be associated with us!
 - iv. It is a common blessing from God to His people, made possible because of Jesus Christ

- g. We are the Redeemed through the blood of Christ Jesus – v.7
 - i. What does it mean to be redeemed?
 - ii. In Scripture, the idea of redemption is in the context of the slave trade
 - 1. We were in bondage to sin and need rescued
 - 2. Jesus buys us back...
 - 3. With His blood!
 - a. I need to constantly be reminded that I am a redeemed slave
 - b. And so are you!
 - c. This brings unity

- h. We are the Beneficiaries of God’s wisdom in Christ Jesus – v.8
 - i. The plan of salvation is FULL of God’s wisdom
 - ii. Who else could come up with a way for a holy God to dwell with sinful humans for all eternity?
 - 1. How else could justice and love co-exist
 - 2. Only in the wisdom of God!

- i. We are the informed (Enlightened) in Christ Jesus – v.9
 - i. Enlightened, not in a prideful sense (not better than others)
 - ii. But enlightened in a gifted sense
 - 1. He didn’t have to reveal Jesus to us
 - 2. But He did!

- j. We are the future Gathering in Christ Jesus – v.10
 - i. Family reunion memories from childhood
 - ii. This passage talks about an amazing reunion
 - iii. Old hymn – “What a day of rejoicing that will be!”

- k. We are the Heirs in Christ Jesus – v.11
 - i. Past – We were **predestined** to be in His body
 - ii. Present – He **redeemed** us on the cross
 - iii. Future – Now He promises an **inheritance**
 - 1. You have the inheritance, you just haven’t been able to access all of it yet
 - 2. Peter called it an **“inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”**

- l. We are the Glorifiers in Christ Jesus – v.12
 - i. This is the end goal
 - ii. Because of Jesus, we can glorify and enjoy God forever – this is why He saved us

II. Conclusions

a. Remember the GOSPEL (Jesus) is our CONNECTION with each other

- i. This is the source of these common blessings
- ii. And this is the Source of our unity...or “oneness”
- iii. **Colossians 2:19**

b. Remember our connection is strongest when we regularly gather

- i. **Hebrews 10:24-25**
- ii. Imagine being on a ship that you know is going down
 1. Big question on everyone’s mind: can I get to a life-boat?
 2. Bad news if you are not aware: Our world is coming to an end
 3. It is going down, so to speak
 - a. But there is a rescuer (life raft)
 - b. It’s Jesus
 - c. Imagine what we might be doing in this scenario
 - d. We’d be hugging each other, helping each other, warming each other, feeding each other, etc.
 - e. That is the church