



**ALL IN** in 2019

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**IDENTITY ... Identity Restored**

Ephesians 1:1-14

This study through the book of Ephesians is about **who we are** and **how we live** in a hostile world! That's exactly why Paul wrote Ephesians. It wasn't to combat false teaching or to reaffirm and encourage a struggling church. It was as if Paul rose above the smoke of combat to envision a larger narrative. One that would help us understand who we really are and the difference are lives can make.

### Who are you?

Can you imagine waking up one morning and not knowing who you are. Everything that you once knew or thought you knew that made you, **you**, is now gone. No name, identification, family, job, story ... every day a child is born ... and from that moment **God says** ... I know who you are ... **but you don't**.

There is a **battle** going on for your true **identity**.

So **God created man** in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made** that was made.

John 1:1-3

### Sin has stolen our identity.

In **Christ** you will find your true Identity.

Satan can't create anything, he can only try to **disguise**, **distort** or **destroy** what God has created!

How does Satan keep you from knowing your true identity?

- The **opinions** of other people
- **Hurt** and **pain** in your life
- **Media** and **culture**
- Thoughts in your **mind**

*Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation.* Oscar Wilde

### Your True Identity Restored - Ephesians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, **To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:1-2

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

Ephesians 1:2-3

**104 times in the NT** we are told that we are **in Christ**, and that because we are in Christ **we have an identity**.

*Your real, new self will not come as long as you are looking for it. It will come when you are looking for Him. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.* C.S. Lewis

... even as he **chose us** in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy** and **blameless** before him.

Ephesians 1:4

You are **connected** to your true **identity** for all eternity by the name and sacrifice of Jesus!

**In Christ** ... Son, **daughter**, beloved child, **ambassador**, witness, **saint**, friend, **new creation**, no longer a slave, **Free**, chosen, **holy**, Redeemed, **forgiven**, predestined, **sealed** with the Holy Spirit, **loved**, alive, **follower**, God's workmanship, **the church**, gifted, **part of His body**, righteous, **citizen of heaven**, complete, **bold**, confident, **family** ...

**In love** he **predestined** us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his **glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him **we have redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness** of our trespasses, according to the riches of his **grace**, which he lavished upon us ...

Ephesians 1:5-8a

What has been stolen by **sin** is restored by **grace**!

... in all wisdom and insight 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 things on earth. Ephesians 1:9-10

God's plan is to **reunite** you with your family and **restore** your true identity.

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, **so that** we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to **the praise of his glory**. Ephesians 1:11-12

Your restored identity gives you a **past, present** and a **future!**

It's in Christ that **we find out who we are** and **what we are living for**. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, **had designs on us for glorious living**, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone. Ephesians 1:11 (The Message)

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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

Do you know your true **identity**?

It all begins when we come to Christ.