**One In Him**

Paul to the Ephesians: A letter to those nearest and dearest to his heart.

1. Spent 3 years there, including a little riot

2. Stopped at Troas on way to Jerusalem for arrest, trial and death to say hello to the elders. Acts 20 his most emotional sermon. (but don’t worry, I will not preach all night)

3. Sent his right hand man, Timothy, to take care of the church.

4. John was a shepherd there from the 70s on.

5. John was exiled from there, where he served as a shepherd over the 7 churches to whom Rev 2-3 was written.

6. John was buried there.

Eph 1:3 The theme verse. Every spiritual blessing IN CHRIST.

The most common description of a saved person in the Bible “in Christ” 70 by the time I hit 1 Thessalonians.

The point: We are one IN HIM. Outside of him we were not one, to say the least!

Our oneness is IN HIM!

Question: Where do we have every spiritual blessing? **IN CHRIST**

So, what do we have IN HIM?

[v.4 holy and blameless]

v. 5 We have adoption into his family!!! God took us in. He chose us!!! In Roman tradition, adopted sons had full inheritance.

Illustration: Ezekiel 16:1-7, 9-13. That is what God did for us. This was us spiritually….

The way Paul puts it: Eph 2:1-7 !!! This is what we have in Christ. What did we have outside of Christ?

This is not a pretty picture.

Adoption is a big theme in the Bible. God tells us/foreshadows for us our relationship with him by adoption:

1. Ruth was adopted by Naomi Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David

A hint about our adoption.

2. Moses was adopted by Pharaoh. Pharaoh (king, symbol of God here) adopts a slave into his household. Moses a prefigure of Jesus.

3. Esther adopted by Mordecai. Esther saved Israel, becoming a prefigure of Jesus.

4. Oh, and guess who else got adopted in the Bible: Jesus!

[Advanced topic: Romans 9:4 In another way Israel was also adopted, Romans 8:23 In another sense, we have not yet been adopted but will be [fully] adopted when we reach heaven]

More on adoption:

Eph 2:11-18. Here he is talking to Gentiles and Jews.

The audience of Ephesians is GENTILES (unlike Hebrews and Romans)

Where were we at? Spiritually, you were an orphan.

a. v. 11 Uncircumcized (I can live with that)

b. v. 12 Separate from Christ

c. v. 12 Excluded from citizenship

d. v. 12 Without hope

e. v. 12 Without God Talk about being on the outside looking in.

v. 14-18

a. He has made the two (Jew and Gentile) one

b. He has destroyed the barrier

Look at what we have here! Black, white, Hispanic Asian, country music fan, rocker and hip-hop, old and young and yes, even Republican and Democrat!!!!

Our Bernie Sanders and our Donald Trump supporters

We are one. Q: How are we one? IN CHRIST!!!

How are we one?

Where are we one?

When are we one?

v. 17 In context: Who was “near” the Jews. Who was “far away” Us!

Good news! It does not matter how far away you are.

v. 17 Q: is there a separate Holy Spirit for the black and the white?

For the old and the young?

For the rich and the poor?

For the male and the female?

Q: Do we still have dividing lines in the church, and hostilities?

Yeah!

He is our peace!!! v. 14

You want to get close to your brother or sister: come close to Jesus.

2:19-22 Where is our unity found?

Apostles and prophets (Bible) but, principally, on Jesus.

v. 22. Jesus is building us together. How? By his Spirit.

Q: What else do we have IN CHRIST?

Eph 1:7-14

a. Redemption.

b. Forgiveness

v. 8 I love this word lavish…. Lavish

Pour so much on that you can hardly even hold it. (but v. 8 he did it with wisdom and understanding so as to not totally spoil it….)

v. 9 He let us in on the mysteries hidden for ages.

Q: What is this mystery?

Ephesians 3:3-9 The CHURCH

I love Eph 3:10!!!!!

If only we had time for Eph 5:25-28 He gave himself up for the church.

End:

Eph 3:14-21.

Brothers and sisters, if we REALLY got this, then everything in the Christian life would make sense, and the Church would become what Jesus wants it to be.

Actually, we do have time.

Lord’s Supper talk. Ephesians 5:25-28 Christ gave himself up so that we could be one in Christ. He saw a bunch of hopelessly divided hateful, bitter, politically and economically and agially divided people and made them into a family.

How? By dying for us. The World became dark and the sun was hidden.

Why? So that we could be radiant in him.

Thank you Jesus.