**Ephesians: One In Him II**

**Coming Home**

Last January: We talked about our unity as a family of God’s people from Ephesians Ch 1-2.

**Eph 1:3-5** Every spiritual blessing IN CHRIST.

Our oneness is IN HIM! We are coming home. The home we come home to his His Home. His Church. Our unity is IN HIM!

So, what do we have IN HIM?

v.4 chosen, holy and blameless

v. 5 We have adoption into his family!!! God took us in. He chose us!!!

Eph 2:1-7 What we have outside of Christ. You were dead in your sins. Gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature. Objects of wrath.

But God adopted us. Eph 2:11-18. Here he is talking to Gentiles.

Where were we at? Spiritually, we were an orphans.

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.

but… v. 14-18

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

b. He has destroyed the barrier

Look at what we have in the Bakersfield Church of Christ! Black, white, Hispanic Asian, country music fan, rocker and hip-hop, old and young and yes, even Republican and Democrat!!!!

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

Ephesians 2:17 Peace to those who were near and those who were far. Who was “near” the Jews. Who was “far away” Us!

Good news! It does not matter how far away you are. Where you started does not matter. All that matters is where you are going.

Q: What else do we have IN CHRIST?

Eph 1:7-9

a. v. 7 Redemption.

b. v. 7 Forgiveness

v. 8 He lavished these things on us.

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

Lesson #2 The Mystery Revealed.

Ephesians 2:19-22.

We are not strangers around here.

v. 19 We say “hello brother, hello sister.” What about “Hello, fellow-citizen.”

v. 19 Members of the same household. Welcome home. This is your family. (not just this is your spiritual family) (undo the power point briefly on zoom so people can see each other)

v. 20 Our unity is based on where we stand.

Our foundation is Jesus Christ, but with the Bible as our standard (the apostles and prophets). Our family covenant is in place. We do not need to negotiate terms.

v. 21 We are a building. We are a temple.

This is SO important. We rise and we fall together. Our society is so individualistic. We are a dwelling for God TOGETHER

In the religious world you go to the church that “meets your needs.”

I do not join the family that “meets my needs.” You are my family. I ain’t going nowhere else!!!!!

God put me in this family!!! I think he knew what he was doing!

Ephesians 3:2-13

Q: What is this mystery?

v. 6 The mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel: members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

v. 8-10 I was nothing, but for some reason God gave the mystery to me.

I love Eph 3:10!!!!! His intent (plan) was that now, **through the church** the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

I don’t even know what that means!!!! But it is awesome.

In Him and through faith in him, we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Eph 3:14-21.

What do we have in Christ? What do we have in the household of Christ? What do we have in this crazy, somewhat disfunctional thing we call church or family—our home?

We have love that is high, wide, long and deep!!! That is four dimensions, folks!!!

v. 19 If only we knew this love! What is it like? How can I describe it?

It “surpasses knowledge.”

If we knew this love, then we would be “filled to the brim (measure) with the fullness of God.

What can God do for us? What will he do for our family? What can he accomplish through us through our families, our teens, our singles, our campus group?

“Immeasurable more than all we can ask or even imagine” by his power.

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.

Let us pray.

Ephesians Ch 1-3 Theology.

Ephesians Ch 4-6 Application.

Which is it?

1. Paul is giving some cool theology, but the theology is there to support his real purpose, which is to admonish them in Christian living.

Or

2. Paul is giving a deep treatise on the theology of Christ, and throws in a few useful applications at the end to illustrate what he just taught.

My answer: Neither. Paul states his theology of Christ and then illustrates his theology of Christ with many practical examples, specifically about life in the Church. They are both examples of and applications of….

A couple of examples:

Eph 4:17-24 You cannot live that way. Why not? V. 20-21a because it is not consistent with what you know about Christ.

Eph 4:29 No unwholesome talk. Why? v. 30 Because it will grieve the Holy Spirit which is in you as a deposit (Eph 1:13-14)

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate. Why? because God in Christ forgave you (Eph 1:7, 2:8-10)

Eph 5:1 Love one another. Why? Because he loved you. (Eph 3:14-19)

Eph 5:3-7 Avoid sexual sin. Why? Because God brought you out of darkness. (Eph 2:1-8)

Eph 5:18 Do not get drunk. Why? Because the HS lives in you (Eph 2:22)

But we will see that next time.

Tonight’s groups: Let’s pray Paul said, “I pray.”

1. That we can know and understand this love.

2. That we can ask and/or imagine what God can do through us by his power.