**Series Title: The Book of Ephesians - Our Identity Is “In Christ”**

September 15th, 2024

**Author:** Paul

**Date of Writing:** AD 60-62

**Location of Writing:** Written from prison in Rome (Acts 28:16–31).

**Structure:** Ch 1-3 -> Doctrinal Ch 4-6 -> Applicational, Christian Behavior

**3 Great Changes A Christian Experiences:**

**#1) We Once Were Out, Now We Are “IN”.**

***11****Therefore, remember that formerly you who are* ***Gentiles*** *by birth and* ***called “uncircumcised”*** *by those who call themselves* ***“the circumcision****” (which is done in the body by human hands)—* Ephesians 2:11

***12****remember that at that time you were* ***separate from Christ****, excluded from* ***citizenship*** *in Israel and* ***foreigner****s to the covenants of the promise,*

***without hope****and* ***without God*** *in the world.* Ephesians 2:12

***13But now*** *in Christ Jesus you who once were* ***far away*** *have been* ***brought near****by the blood of Christ.* Ephesians 2:13

 *[*See 2 Corinthians 5:17-21]

**#2) We Once Were Separated, Now We're INTEGRATED.**

***14****For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has* ***destroyed the barrier****, the dividing wall of hostility,* Ephesians 2:14

[See Acts 21:27-30]

***15****by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.*

*His purpose was to create in himself one****new humanity*** *out of the two, thus making peace,* Ephesians 2:15

*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for* ***you are all one in Christ*** *Jesus.* Gal 3:28

**JESUS SAID: *14****“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—* ***15****just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.****16I have other sheep***

***that are not of this sheep pen.*** *I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.* John 10:14-16

***16****and in* ***one body to reconcile both of them to God*** *through the cross,*

*by which he put to death their hostility.****17****He came and preached peace*

*to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.* ***18****For through him* ***we both have access****to the Father by one Spirit.* Ephesians 2:16-18

**#3) We Once Were Foreigners, But Now We're FAMILY.**

***19****Consequently, you are no longer* ***foreigners and strangers****, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,****20****built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.* Ephesians 2:19-20

***21****In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.* Ephesians 2:21

***22****And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*  Ephesians 2:22

**POINSETTIAS**