

# CONNECTION GROUPS

Connection Group Questions

November 8, 2020

Series: *The State of our Union with Christ*

Message: *“Every Spiritual Blessing”*

## ***Ephesians 1:1-14***

*1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,*

*To God’s holy people in Ephesus,[a] the faithful in Christ Jesus:*

*2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

*5 In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship[c] through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he[d] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

*11 In him we were also chosen,[e] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.*

## **Open**

*Read through Ephesians 1:1-14 and count how many times “in Christ,” “in him,” or “in the One” appears. Here is an incomplete list of references to our union with Christ:*

*Jesus John 17 I in them and they in me, that they may be one as we are one.*

*Ephesians 2 we are created in Christ*

*Galatians 2 we are crucified with Christ*

*Colossians 2 we are buried with Christ*

*Romans 6 we are baptized into Christ*

*Romans 6 we are resurrected in Christ*

*Ephesians 2 we are seated with Christ in the heavenly realm*

*We are justified in Christ (Romans 8:1), glorified in Christ (Romans 8:30), sanctified in Christ (1 Cor 1:2), called in Christ (1 Cor 1:9), made alive in Christ (Eph 2:5), recreated in Christ (2 Cor 5:17), adopted in Christ (Eph. 1:5, Gal 3:2), elected in Christ (Eph 1:4-5), found in Christ (Ph. 3:8-9) and we are a part of the body of Christ (1 Cor 6:15).*

### **Discuss**

Anthony Hoekema wrote that “Once you have your eyes opened to this concept of union with Christ, you will find it almost everywhere in the New Testament” (Saved by Grace [Eerdmans, 1989], 64. **Have you had your eyes opened? If so when, where, how?**

Paul opens by calling Christians “holy ones” or more literally saints. **Do you see yourself as a saint? Why or why not? What difference would seeing yourself as a saint make in your daily walk? How would you treat others if you saw them as saints?**

Verse 3 says we have every spiritual blessing in Christ. **Brainstorm your own list of spiritual blessing that you have experienced.**

Verse 4 says we have been chosen in Christ. **Why is it so important to understand that God first chose you?**

Starting in verse 5 is a long affirmation of God’s “golden thread” of salvation: predestined, adopted, redeemed, forgiven.... All of this is preceded by this affirmation- God did it all “In love.” **Why is it so important to understand all that God is and does He does in love and is in love with us his people? (If you want you can as a group, explore the nature of God’s “Golden Tread” here and in Romans 8.)**

Verse 11-14 affirm this plan of salvation. George discussed a more “adult conversion” as a move from inviting Jesus into our hearts, to giving our life to Christ. **Discuss this move to a more mature union with Christ.**

### **Apply**

**WHJD: What Has Jesus Done? How are we saved past-tense?**

**WWJD: What Would Jesus Do? How are we being saved present tense?**

**WWJD: What Will Jesus Do? What is our future hope for salvation?**

*30 Days of Gratitude has begun. If you don't have a journal grab one of ours!*

*Each morning write 3 things for which you are grateful. (It's best to do this in the morning.)*

*Bonus: Also write 3 goals or aspirations for the day.*

*Each evening, before bed write 3 reflections: what was great about your day, what could have been better, what will you do differently tomorrow?*

*Double Bonus: Top off your day by writing a Thank You Note to send to someone.*