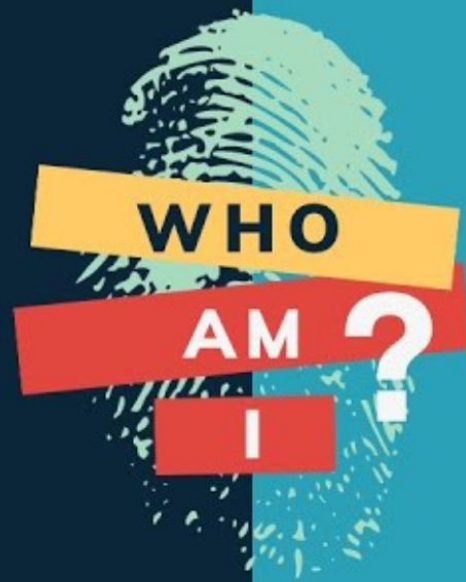




THE SEARCH FOR TRUE IDENTITY

POINT 1: CHOSEN BY THE FATHER (VV. 3-6)

EPHESIANS 1:3-6 CSB

3 BLESSED IS THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO HAS BLESSED US WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENS IN CHRIST. 4 FOR HE CHOSE US IN HIM, BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS IN LOVE BEFORE HIM. 5 HE PREDESTINED US TO BE ADOPTED AS SONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST FOR HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL, 6 TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORIOUS GRACE THAT HE LAVISHED ON US IN THE BELOVED ONE.

BREAKDOWN:

- GOD MADE THE FIRST MOVE — HE CHOSE US BEFORE WE COULD EVER CHOOSE HIM.
- HIS CHOICE IS ROOTED IN LOVE, NOT FAVORITISM.
- “CHOSEN” MEANS INVITED INTO RELATIONSHIP, NOT FORCED INTO IT.
- FREE WILL STILL STANDS — GOD’S CHOICE OPENS THE DOOR; YOUR FAITH WALKS THROUGH IT.
- YOU ARE ADOPTED INTO GOD’S FAMILY — CHOSEN TO BELONG, TO BE HOLY, AND TO LIVE LOVED.

BIG IDEA:

GOD CHOSE YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN HAD THE CHANCE TO EARN HIS LOVE. HIS CHOICE IS AN INVITATION, NOT AN OBLIGATION.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES:

- JOHN 3:16 — “FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON...”
- 2 PETER 3:9 — “HE IS PATIENT... NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTANCE.”
- JOSHUA 24:15 — “CHOOSE FOR YOURSELVES THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE.”



POINT 2: REDEEMED BY THE SON (VV. 7-10)

EPHESIANS 1:7-10 CSB

IN HIM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR TRESPASSES, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE [8] THAT HE RICHLY POURED OUT ON US WITH ALL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING. [9] HE MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL, ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PLEASURE THAT HE PURPOSED IN CHRIST [10] AS A PLAN FOR THE RIGHT TIME -TO BRING EVERYTHING TOGETHER IN CHRIST, BOTH THINGS IN HEAVEN AND THINGS ON EARTH IN HIM.

BREAKDOWN:

- BEING CHOSEN ISN'T JUST ABOUT BEING PICKED — IT'S ABOUT BEING PURCHASED.
- JESUS' BLOOD PAID THE PRICE TO REDEEM YOU AND FORGIVE YOU.
- GOD'S CHOOSING ISN'T RELIGION — IT'S RELATIONSHIP AND RESTORATION.
- YOU'RE CHOSEN FROM SIN AND FOR A NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST.
- THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WILL? TO BRING EVERYTHING — INCLUDING YOU — TOGETHER UNDER JESUS.

BIG IDEA:

TO BE CHOSEN IS TO BE INVITED INTO A BRAND-NEW IDENTITY — FORGIVEN, REDEEMED, AND MADE NEW THROUGH JESUS.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES:

- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 — “IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THE NEW CREATION HAS COME...”
- JOHN 1:12 — “TO ALL WHO RECEIVED HIM, HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD.”
- COLOSSIANS 1:13-14 — “HE RESCUED US FROM DARKNESS AND BROUGHT US INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SON HE LOVES.”



POINT 3: SEALED BY THE SPIRIT (VV. 11-14)

EPHESIANS 1:11-14 CSB

IN HIM WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED AN INHERITANCE, BECAUSE WE WERE PREDESTINED ACCORDING TO THE PLAN OF THE ONE WHO WORKS OUT EVERYTHING IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF HIS WILL, [12] SO THAT WE WHO HAD ALREADY PUT OUR HOPE IN CHRIST MIGHT BRING PRAISE TO HIS GLORY. [13] IN HIM YOU ALSO WERE SEALED WITH THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT WHEN YOU HEARD THE WORD OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL OF YOUR SALVATION, AND WHEN YOU BELIEVED. [14] THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE DOWN PAYMENT OF OUR INHERITANCE, UNTIL THE REDEMPTION OF THE POSSESSION, TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY.

BREAKDOWN:

- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S SEAL — HIS MARK OF OWNERSHIP AND PROMISE ON YOUR LIFE.
- YOU'RE NOT JUST CHOSEN — YOU'RE SECURED AND EMPOWERED TO LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH.
- THE SPIRIT CONFIRMS YOUR IDENTITY DAILY: YOU BELONG TO GOD.
- YOU CAN'T EARN BEING CHOSEN, BUT YOU CAN REJECT OR RECEIVE IT.
- BEING SEALED MEANS YOUR ETERNITY — AND YOUR PURPOSE — ARE GUARANTEED.

BIG IDEA:

THE SPIRIT IS YOUR DAILY REMINDER THAT YOU'RE CHOSEN, REDEEMED, AND SECURE — FOREVER GOD'S.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES:

- ROMANS 8:16 — "THE SPIRIT HIMSELF TESTIFIES THAT WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN."
- 2 CORINTHIANS 1:21-22 — "HE SET HIS SEAL OF OWNERSHIP ON US."
- JOHN 15:16 — "YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME, BUT I CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU TO BEAR FRUIT."



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU TRIED TO DEFINE YOUR WORTH OR IDENTITY BY WHAT OTHERS THINK OF YOU, AND HOW DOES THAT COMPARE TO SEEING YOURSELF AS CHOSEN BY GOD?
- 2) HOW DOES KNOWING YOU ARE CHOSEN CHANGE THE WAY YOU RESPOND TO FAILURE, REJECTION, OR COMPARISON?
- 3) ARE THERE AREAS IN YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR APPROVAL OR VALIDATION INSTEAD OF RESTING IN GOD'S AFFIRMATION OF YOU?
- 4) HOW CAN YOU PRACTICALLY REMIND YOURSELF DAILY THAT YOUR IDENTITY IS ROOTED IN BEING CHOSEN, NOT EARNED?
- 5) WHEN FACED WITH DECISIONS OR CHALLENGES, HOW DOES YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF BEING CHOSEN INFLUENCE THE PATHS YOU TAKE OR THE RISKS YOU'RE WILLING TO EMBRACE?

