



INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

LIFE IN CHRIST

PASSAGE OVERVIEW

The second half of the letter to the Ephesians addresses how we live in Christ. The phrase that Paul uses most in this section to describe living in Christ is “walk”. While the first three chapters dealt with the foundational theological truth of our identity in Christ, these chapters tell us how that new identity in Jesus changes the way we walk or live each day.

It is important to note that the thrust of the Spirit’s words to us here are in the context of life together. While our personal walk is necessarily changed by our identity in Christ, it is how we live in community in Jesus that is the constant focus here. As American believers, this is important for us to keep in mind. We too readily approach scripture individualistically. We ask, “What does this mean for me?” But this letter is written to the church, the body of Christ, and it speaks to their corporate walk. It focuses upon our relationships together and our growth together as we grow up into Christ as one body.

Our Lord calls us to live in a dramatically different way than we did before we were saved and brought into Him. But we aren’t left to our own resources. Jesus himself provides every gift we need to live this life in community, growing together into maturity in Him. He gives us His Spirit as well, empowering us to live counter to the natural tendencies we once had when we were separated from God and from each other.

As you read this week, notice the commands. Pay attention to how we are called to walk. Notice how every aspect of community life in the body of Christ is addressed.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Ephesians 4 - 6

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The only way to be “in” is in Christ.

The Father’s sovereign plan to bless us is provided in Jesus and powered by the Holy Spirit, for His glory. (1:3, 13-14; 2:18, 22)

I. Blessed in Christ (ch. 1)

- A. Blessed - in Jesus alone (1:3)
- B. Chosen - before the foundation of the world (1:4)
- C. Predestined (1:5)
- D. Redeemed (1:7)
- E. Allotted - you’ve been included! (1:11)
- F. Sealed - by the Spirit (1:13-14)

II. Alive in Christ (2:1-10)

- A. You were dead (2:1-3)
But God
- B. Made us alive (2:4-10)

III. Peace in Christ (one in Christ) (2:11-22)

- A. You were “on the outs” (2:11-12)
- B. But now “in Christ Jesus” (2:13, 19)
- C. Peace - the divided are now one (2:14-22)

IV. God’s plan on display in the church (1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-10, 14-20)

How does this apply to me?
