

**Sermon Title:** Identity

**Sermon Series:** Ephesians: Who We Are

**Scripture:** Ephesians 1:1-2

**Speaker:** Pastor Mike Barnhart



## **Do You know who you are?**

“Sin insists that I forget my dependence on God and rely solely on myself. What Martin Luther described is true: sin is the heart ‘curved in on itself.’ Sin and shame both tell me a false story about myself and God:

You aren’t enough.

You aren’t as beautiful as she is.

You aren’t as successful as he is.

You need a little more of that.

You need a little less of that.

God doesn’t really care.

God will care...if you only

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***Sin creates shame, and shame arouses further sin and despair.”***

***– Russ Masterson, Searching for Grace***

## **Is the faith you have a faith worth having?**

### **Ephesians 1:1–2 ESV**

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

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

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

What does it mean to be an Ephesian?

Ephesus was one of the most strategic locations for the spread of Christianity in the Roman world.

### **Apostle - “sent one”**

As an “apostle,” Paul’s duties were to:

- *Preach the gospel (2 Cor. 12:12)*
- *Teach & pray (Acts 6:4)*
- *Work miracles (2 Cor. 12:12)*
- *Raise up & equip other leaders of the church (Acts 14:23)*
- *Write the Word of God (Eph. 1:1)*

### **Ephesians 1:1 ESV**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

***“No man is...a believer who is not also a saint; and, on the other hand, no man is a saint who is not a believer.”***

***—John Calvin***

### **Romans 3:21–22 ESV**

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:

### **Romans 3:23–25 ESV**

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

### **2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV**

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **Galatians 5:1 ESV**

1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

### **Ephesians 1:2 ESV**

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

### **1. A Family of Grace**

#### **Ephesians 1:2 ESV**

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

## **Grace - God's unconditional love**

Two terms of grace used in verse 2:

**1. Father**

**2. Lord**

### **John 14:6 ESV**

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

God being your Father & Lord is an act of grace toward you.

...it's the most supreme & joy-filled act of grace that's ever existed.

## **2. A Family of Peace**

### **Ephesians 1:2 ESV**

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

### **John 14:26–27 ESV**

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

### **Philippians 4:7 ESV**

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Do you need peace?**

***“Remember who you are.”***

***”Remember whose you are.”***

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pray

When Pastor Mike explained some of the cultural background of 1st century Ephesus, what was most shocking, interesting, or helpful?

Read Ephesians 1:1-2. (Consider reading it several times in different Bible translations.)

Why do you think Paul wrote this particular greeting?

What do these two verses tell us about God?

a. How have you seen God as a “Father” in your life?

b. In what way(s) has God been challenging you to follow Him as your “Lord”?

Who is a “saint”? How is being a “saint” relevant to being “faithful”?

What is grace?

a. Describe how grace is God's currency and a fountain for life.

b. What role does God's grace play in your life?

What is peace?

a. How have you seen God's peace in your life?

b. How would like to see God's peace in your life?

What is God challenging you to believe, remember, or do because of this text?

Pray