

Children of God

Pastor Chris Engel — January 18th, 2026

Ephesians 1:1-14 (NIV)

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³Praise 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. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. ¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And 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, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

• Intro to Ephesians - Grace and Peace (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

"This letter contains the deep things of God... a thorough explanation of how the triune God works together to save us from sin to eternal life, the great riches and hope which God promises for us as an inheritance, how we ought to live now that we have new life and the power of God in us through His Holy Spirit, and how we can overcome the schemes of Satan and our sinful flesh."

So You're Born Again, Now What?

- **God the Father has blessed us by making us holy and blameless and adopting us into His Family.** (vs. 3-6; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Rom. 8:15)

"A new heart is better than new shoes!"

- **God the Son has blessed us by paying our sin debt with His redeeming blood.** (vs. 7-8; Galatians 3:13-14)

*Many think it is unwise of God to lavish such redemption and forgiveness on guilty sinners.
But it was in all wisdom that He gave this to us.*

- **God the Holy Spirit has blessed us by ensuring that we arrive at the right location, on time, and fully funded.** (vs. 13-14)