

The Church — God's Fullness

Ephesians 1: 22-23

Ephesians 1:22–23 (ESV)

²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

I. Triumph of God's mercy and grace

Ephesians 2:1–3 (ESV)

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians 2:4–9 (ESV)

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved**— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the **immeasurable riches of his grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For **by grace you have been saved** through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

II. The mystery of the union of God with people

Ephesians 1:3–4 (ESV)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he **chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

Ephesians 1:5–7 (ESV)

⁵he predestined us **for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which **he has blessed us in the Beloved**. ⁷**In him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Ephesians 1:13 (ESV)

¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 1:5–7 (ESV)

⁵he predestined us **for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷**In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of his grace,

Ephesians 3:16–19 (ESV)

¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Christian life is supernatural!

Christianity is a constant manifestation of the supernatural work of God's Spirit in the lives of people saved by Christ!

Ephesians 5:18–21 (ESV)

¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:31–33 (ESV)

³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

The three stages of a Christian's life

- The birth of Christ's life in us
- Growth of Christ's life in us
- The Triumph of Christ's Life in Us

III. The Power of God's Influence Through the Church

Ephesians 3:10 (ESV)

¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV)

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:13–15 (ESV)

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

Ephesians 6:18–19 (ESV)

¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,