



Ephesians: Masterpiece in Progress

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“Coming Together in Him”

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Key Verses: Ephesians 1:1-23

Key Thought: God has revealed His original plan to unite (and thereby renew) creation under the headship of Christ, which is even now being realized through the church— Christ's “body.”

Points to Consider:

- The message of Ephesians assumes that humanity failed to live out God's commission to rule over creation in submission to Him (cf. Genesis 1-3), to live as faithful pointers to the Christ who was to come— which broke our relationship with God and one another, and caused us to be subjugated to spiritual powers who were in rebellion against God.
- Through the coming of Christ (i.e., His incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension), and through the creation of the church, God has revealed and even begun to realize His original plan to unite (and thereby renew) creation under the headship of Christ (see esp. 1:9-10)— who does indeed rule over creation in perfect submission to the Father.
- 3-14 is one sentence in Greek, featuring the work of the Triune God on behalf of everyone who believes— both Jew (i.e., the “we” of 12) and Gentile (i.e., the “you” of 13). → The Father has redeemed and adopted us all through the Son— through whom also we have the Spirit, a “down-payment” of our inheritance in the Christ.
- Even as he proclaims, Paul prays in 15-23 that God would deeply reveal these realities to his readers. He also underscores God's power at work in them, which rose Christ from the dead and raised Him (*and them*) to a place of headship over creation (including over those rebellious spiritual powers). → Christ is “filling” creation with His rule in the present through the church— which is called to *union with* and *submission to* Him.

Discussion Prompts:

- Begin in prayer— with Paul— for God's revelation (see 16-19).
- How is God resolving the problem of Genesis 3 through Christ (and then the church)?
- What part of this story resonates with you the most right now, and why?
- What does Paul's presentation of the church in Ephesians 1 reveal about our mission?
- Where have you seen the church effectively “filling” the creation around them with the rule of Christ? (Note that Pastor Derrick pointed to various missionaries and ministries.)
- How might God be leading you to do His will in a way that impacts those around you?