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January 11, 2026: “**Where We’ve Been: The Story Ephesians Has Been Telling Us**”

Text:

Ephesians 1:1 - 5:2

Howdy Church Family!

I hope you’re finding moments of peace in the middle of what has felt like a tense and heavy few weeks. Many of us are feeling the weight of the world right now—news cycles, cultural pressure, and the sense that everyone is supposed to “pick a side” on everything. Let’s remember to use the wisdom of God for discernment as we walk each day. In times like these, I’m reminded of Jesus’ words: “*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart—I have overcome the world.*”

This Sunday, we’re stepping back into our series in Ephesians, and before we move forward, we’re taking one week to remember where we’ve been. Sometimes the problem isn’t that we don’t have what we need—it’s that we forget what’s already ours in Christ.

The message this week is a full recap of Ephesians 1:1–5:2, and it centers on one simple invitation:

\*\*Remember who God is. Remember who you are. And remember the story you’re part of.\*\*

As you prepare your heart for Sunday, you might take a few minutes to reflect on these themes from the first half of Ephesians:

- Ephesians 1: You already have what you need in Christ.
  - Ephesians 2:1–10: You were dead, but God made you alive.
  - Ephesians 2:11–22: You belong to a new family—one people under one King.
  - Ephesians 3: The mystery is revealed: all nations invited into God’s family.
  - Ephesians 4:1–16: Walk worthy. Grow up. Build up. Show Up.
  - Ephesians 4:17–24: Put off the old, put on the new.
  - Ephesians 4:25–5:2: Let love shape how we live together.

If you want to read ahead, Ephesians 5:1–2 will be our anchor: “*Follow God’s example, as dearly loved children, and walk in the way of love...*”

My prayer is that this Sunday helps us breathe again—helps us remember that our identity, our unity, and our mission don’t come from the world around us, but from the God who has already made us alive in Christ.

See you soon!

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