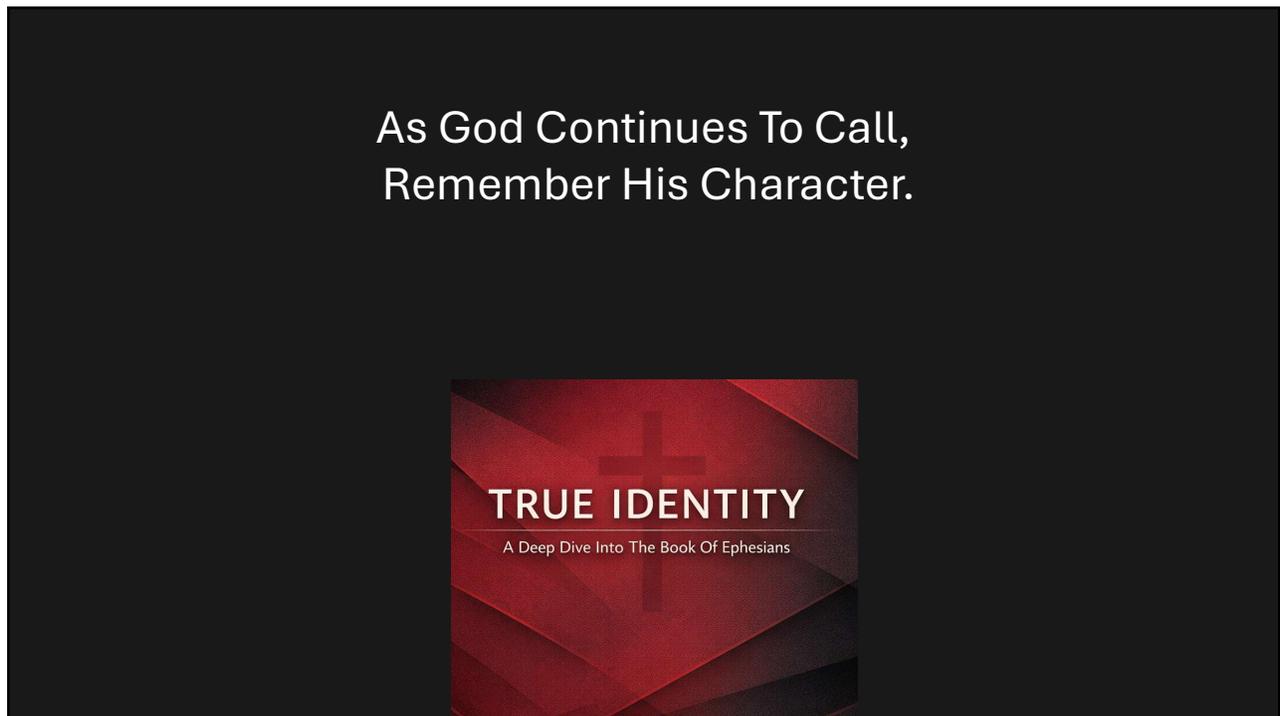


12



13

Ephesians 3:1–13

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

14

Ephesians 3:1–13

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

15

Ephesians 3:1–13

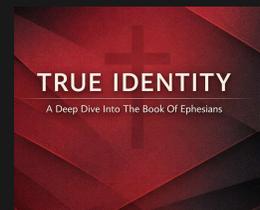
This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

16

CALLED PURPOSE vs. 1-3

Following God

- Before Christ Paul's testimony
Philippians 3:6–7
as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

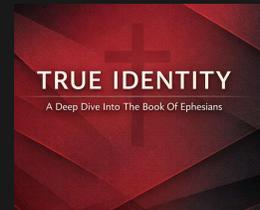


17

CALLED PURPOSE vs. 1-3

Following God

- Before Christ Paul's testimony - Philippians 3:6–7
- Culturally disconnected from the Gentiles
- Unexpected calling – Acts 9:1-9
 - Believed he was on the right side with God
 - Called to go to the people considered the most unclean and unapproachable



18

CALLED PURPOSE vs. 1-3

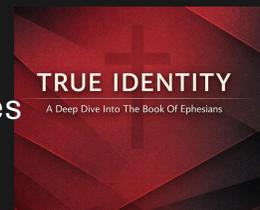
Following God

Prisoner Of Christ

- Paul never referred to himself as a prisoner of Rome
- Understood God has total authority
- Persecution is expected
- Always give God the glory
- Always take the opportunity to share

Acts 9:15–16

But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”



19

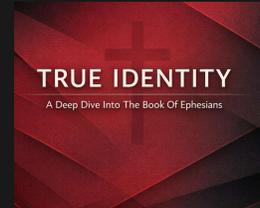
CALLED PURPOSE vs. 1-3

Following God

Prisoner Of Christ

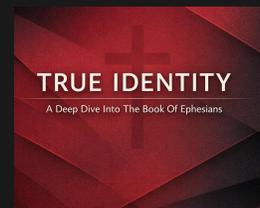
Given Responsibility

- Stewardship –
God has ultimate ownership; humanity is entrusted managers
- God's grace – the gospel
- The command to make disciples
- Make known the revelation of God



20

**You Responsible To Follow
God's Calling In Your Life
First, Salvation
Second, Declaration**

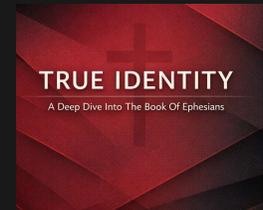


21

CALLED UNDERSTANDING vs. 4-6

Taught Truths

- Grasping God's love for humanity
- Seeking after God's design of redemption
- Pursuing a relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ
- Laying aside cultural or societal divisions

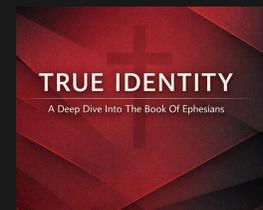


22

CALLED UNDERSTANDING vs. 4-6

Taught Truths Before Christ

- Dead
- Alienated
- Hopeless



23

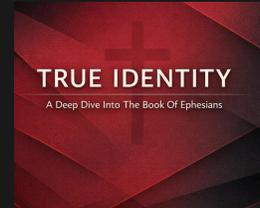
CALLED UNDERSTANDING vs. 4-6

Taught Truths

Before Christ

God's Timing

- Generations of longing for and waiting for Messiah
- Taught through the generations
- Made known through the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ
- Now made known through the church
- All lead by the Holy Spirit



24

CALLED UNDERSTANDING vs. 4-6

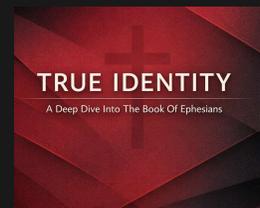
Taught Truths

Before Christ

God's Timing

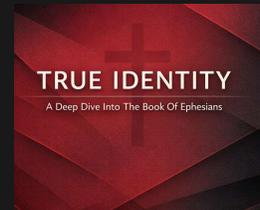
The Unthinkable

- Idol worshipers are now believers in Christ
- There is no distinction between races and culture
- All who believe are partakers in Christ Jesus through the gospel



25

Are You A Partaker In The Promise In Christ Jesus Through The Gospel? Are You Sharing The Gospel?

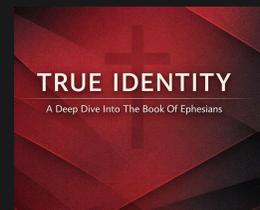


26

CALLED TOGETHER vs. 7-13

Continual Proclamation

- Paul continued to share the gospel
 - By the time of writing Ephesians, Paul had been a believer for approximately 30 years
 - The book of Acts gives insight to Paul's life primarily after his conversion and call

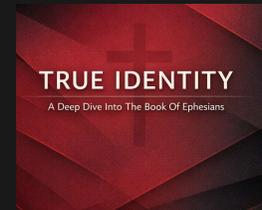


27

CALLED TOGETHER vs. 7-13

Continual Proclamation

- Paul continued to share the gospel
- Unstoppable gift of grace
 - Undeserved favor
 - Given by the Holy Spirit
 - Ongoing continual working of salvation



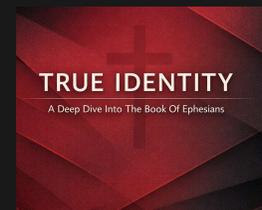
28

CALLED TOGETHER vs. 7-13

Continual Proclamation

Paul The Least Of The Saints

- Unlike others, Paul did not partake in the earthly ministry of Christ
- Attempt to kill the church
- Sent to the Gentiles, not the favored culture
- But, no less called than the other apostles



29

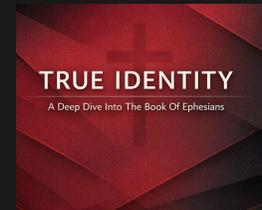
CALLED TOGETHER vs. 7-13

Continual Proclamation

Paul The Least Of The Saints

The Incredible Privilege

- Share the “unsearchable riches of Christ”
- The incredible message of hope
- Neverending growth, learning, and application
- Privilege not a burdensome task



30

CALLED TOGETHER vs. 7-13

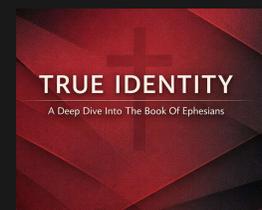
Continual Proclamation

Paul The Least Of The Saints

The Incredible Privilege

Not Alone

- Sharing the gospel is a command to each believer
- Lived out and proclaimed as the church
 - Continued proclamation
 - Continued prayer
 - Continued encouragement



31

CALLED TOGETHER vs. 7-13

Continual Proclamation

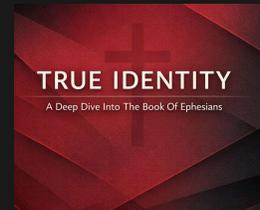
Paul The Least Of The Saints

The Incredible Privilege

Not Alone

Not Mistaken

- God's perfect love declared through God's perfect plan
- No other has greater authority



32

CALLED TOGETHER vs. 7-13

Continual Proclamation

Paul The Least Of The Saints

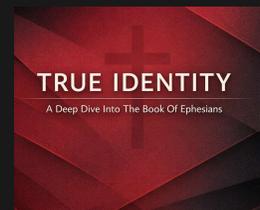
The Incredible Privilege

Not Alone

Not Mistaken

Not In Weakness

- Called to be confident
 - Individual salvation
 - Sharing the gospel
 - Approaching God through prayer



33

CALLED TOGETHER vs. 7-13

Continual Proclamation

Paul The Least Of The Saints

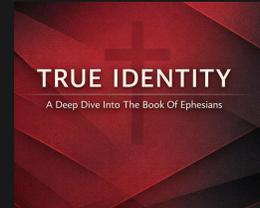
The Incredible Privilege

Not Alone

Not Mistaken

Not In Weakness

- Called to be confident
- Boldness through prayer
- Strengthening faith through our walk with God



34

CALLED TOGETHER vs. 7-13

Continual Proclamation

Paul The Least Of The Saints

The Incredible Privilege

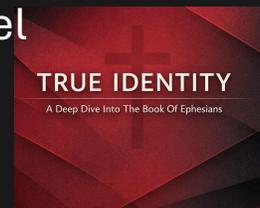
Not Alone

Not Mistaken

Not In Weakness

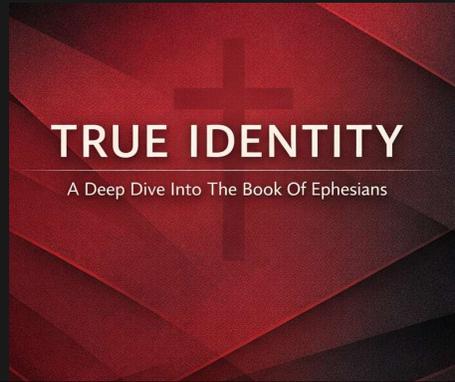
Continued Endurance

- Through personal persecution for the gospel
- Through the persecuted church
- Suffering a proof of faith



35

**Do You Trust God?
Why Not?
Got Evidence?**



36