

## God's Plan for Oneness Ephesians 1:3–14

### Vision & Formation

- God's vision for the church is not just gathering, but **becoming a formed people**
- A church shaped to:
  - Experience God
  - Engage in life-giving community
  - Discover their gifts
  - Change the world
- Central tension:
  - Easy to describe
  - Difficult to live—especially in our own strength
- Ephesians shows **what the Gospel creates**, not just what it explains

### Paul's Starting Point: Prayer Before Instruction

#### Ephesians 1:17–19

- Paul begins with prayer, not commands
- He prays for:
  - Knowledge of God
  - Enlightened hearts
  - Understanding hope and inheritance
  - Awareness of God's power already at work
- A prayer for **revelation, not effort**

#### Insight:

Gospel information without Gospel experience leads to weak formation

## God's Mission and God's Strategy

- **God's mission:** unite all things in Christ (Eph. 1:10)
- **God's strategy:** the church (Eph. 3:10)
- The church is:
  - Not a building
  - Not an event
  - A people formed by grace
- A divided, insecure, performance-driven church cannot carry God's mission

## We Sit in What God Has Already Done

### Ephesians 1:3–14

- This passage is a **declaration**, not a demand
- An invitation to **sit**, not strive

### In Christ we are:

- Blessed with every spiritual blessing
- Chosen before the foundation of the world
- Adopted into God's family
- Redeemed and forgiven
- Given an inheritance
- Sealed with the Holy Spirit

### Supporting truth:

God fights while His people stand firm (Exod. 14:13–14)

## **The Security of Our Identity**

- Our identity in Christ is:
  - Not temporary
  - Not fragile
  - Not dependent on us
- God is faithful to complete what He begins (1 Thess. 5:24)

## **Salvation by Grace**

### **Ephesians 2:4–10**

- Salvation is resurrection, not self-improvement
- Grace is the ground we stand on, not our works
- No hierarchy in God's family
- We are God's workmanship, created for good works that flow from grace

## **A New Family Formed**

### **Ephesians 2:19**

- No longer strangers or outsiders
- Fellow citizens
- Members of God's household

### **Key Truths:**

- Identity precedes effort
- Belonging precedes behavior

## **Reframing Our Thinking**

### **What we often believe:**

- My value comes from what I do
- God is more pleased when I perform
- I don't measure up

### **What Scripture says:**

- Nearness is given, not earned (Eph. 2:13)
- We belong as family, not outsiders (Eph. 2:19)

## **Oneness Through the Cross**

### **Ephesians 2:14–15**

- Christ is our peace
- Dividing walls are torn down
- One new people is formed in Him

### **Insight:**

Performance produces comparison

Grace produces unity

## **Identity and Mission**

- We cannot live on mission if we are still trying to earn belonging
- A secure church becomes a unified church
- A unified church becomes a powerful witness

**We don't start with what we do.**

**We start with who we are in Christ.**