

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

September 28, 2014

Series: ID: Finding Our True Identity in Christ “Blessed!” Ephesians 1:1-14

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Sermon Summary:

Who am I? Many people struggle with a sense of identity. What is it that makes me who I am? What defines me – my looks, my family, my job, my car, my bank account, my sexuality? There is much confusion on the subject and all sorts of “voices” that seek to tell us how we should define ourselves. As Christians, ultimately we don’t receive our identity from any of these things. In the deepest sense our identity comes from who we are “in Christ”. The book of Ephesians has much to say about our identity as individual believers and collectively as the church. This Christ-centred identity is infinitely greater than any of the inadequate definitions by which culture and media seek to define us. In the first 14 verses of the letter to the Ephesians, the words seem to tumble out of Paul’s mind and heart and onto the page as He describes what God has done and who we are in Christ (verses 3-14 are one long sentence in Greek!). There is so much in these verses that we could spend weeks reflecting on them. The challenge for us as a church is to allow God’s Word and the Spirit of God to take us deeper in our knowledge of God and our understanding of who we are in Christ.

Key Verse: *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Eph. 1:3*

Bottom Line: *“A blessed life blesses God”*

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Take the first few minutes to welcome people to the LIFE Group and to review the LIFE Group Vision and Values (Life in 3D). Cards available for each member of the group at the office. Pray for God’s presence and work in your lives.
2. Read the Sermon Summary and Bottom Line
3. Read the passage (at least once) out loud. Ephesians 1:1-14
4. What stood out to you as we read the passage? Is there a word or phrase that caught your attention or raised a question?
5. How does this text challenge your view of God? Of myself? If I really saw myself as someone who has been *“blessed ... in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”* what difference would that make in my life? How does this scripture call me to a new way of life?
6. What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?

Application: Encourage group members to pray the “Daily Praise for What God has Done” each day this week and report back next week. Prayer cards available on the website and LCC Facebook.

Make sure to leave time to pray for each other!