

Ephesians part 2...Oct.22nd 2016
Chapter 1:4-6

In the N.T. there are many metaphors used to describe the church.

The church is called:

A bride...a flock...a household...a kingdom...a building...a vine and branches and body.

But the metaphor that best communicates what the church is would be **body** or the body of Christ.

We will see the church identified as a body in chapter:

1:23...2:15...3:6...4:16...5:30

When it comes to the human body it functions in a multi-function way.

The functions of the human body are totally dependent upon every muscle, tissue and nerve working together.

In the same way the church functions as well.

As the human body receives all of its direction from the head so does the church.

The head of the church is Jesus Christ.

Christ is the head and He manifests His will through the proper functioning of the body.

As we go through Ephesians we are going to see parallels between how the human body works and the way the church is to work.

When Paul discusses the church as a body he is speaking of how it came to be and how Jesus wants it to function.

In the first chapter of Ephesians Paul is going to go back into eternity past and show how God is the Master planner of the church and how He designed it before the world began.

In verses 3-14 Paul talks about the eternal forming of the body of Christ by God and the purposes for which it was formed.

We looked at verse 3 last week where Paul breaks out in praise and just blesses God for all he has done for him...

Paul is also blessing God because God designed all of this before the world began... and Paul is excited because he is part of God's plan.

God designed him into the plan but not only Paul but all of us here today.

Today I want us to look at verses 4-6 and see the workings of God's Master plan.

God's master plan for the church involves three components...

- **The first** is found in verses 4-6 and it is **election**.
- **The second** is found in verses 6-11 and it is **redemption**.
- **The third** is found in verses 12-14 and it is **inheritance**.

God's master plan also involved:

Verse 3... **The Father**...

Verse 3 **The Son**...

Verse 13 **The Holy Spirit**.

- God the Father **planned** the church...
- God the Son **paid** for the church...
- God the Holy Spirit **empowers** the church.

In verses 4-6 Paul is going to take us into eternity past to see how God the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit worked to form the church...

By election, redemption and inheritance.

Verse 4 ...*Just as He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.*

The words **He chose us** speak of election.

The word chose means to pick.

Election is the method in which God formed the body or the church.

He chose He picked, He elected us.

This means salvation begins with God and not with man.

John 15:16...Jesus said *You have not chosen Me I have chosen you.*

Rom. 3:10-11 says...*There is none righteous no not one, there is none who understands, there is none who seeks after God.*

Luke 19:10 says...*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

All of these verses tell us God chose us or it was God's doing we didn't choose God.

God did not choose us because we were good He chose us so we could do some good.
God in His mercy has ordained that we should be His people.

As far as God the Father is concerned we were saved when He chose us in eternity past...

As far as Jesus is concerned we were saved when He died on the cross...

And as far as The Holy Spirit is concerned we were saved when we yielded to His conviction and received
Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

In verse 4 Paul says God chose us in Him meaning in Christ and He chose us for a purpose...

Paul then tells us that purpose in verse 4...

That we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

God chose us in order to sanctify us.

And He sanctifies us that so we will be holy and without blame.

There are two things that need to be understood when it comes to being holy and without blame.

They are position and practice.

Here Paul is talking about our position in Christ.

Positionally right now before God we are holy and blameless.

How can that be? We are human and we mess up and we sin...

We are holy and blameless because positionally we are in Him.

This means Christ's righteousness is imputed to you and me.

When God looks at us He only sees the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

The position of the believer is covered in the righteousness of Christ.

Col. 2:10 says we are complete in Him.

That means our practice ought to match our position.

This means as a Christian our practice must be equivalent to our position.

It means living like who we are in Christ...

It means becoming what we are in Christ.

When God looks at us positionally He says we are holy and without blame...

And then when He looks at me practically He says Mike you have a mighty long way to go.

In relation to the church it means He has made a holy church.

Why did God do all this?

The last words of verse 4 tell us...

In love.

God did because of His love.

Love is a disposition in the heart of God by which He determines to sacrifice Himself to meet the needs of others.

God's love **is not an emotion...**

God's love **is an act of selfless sacrifice.**

The love of God is the act of selfless sacrifice which seeks the betterment of someone else.

God has determined that He would sacrifice Himself for us...

And He set that affection upon us before the world began.

Verse 5...*Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will.*

In verse 5 we come to the next thing God did for us...

He predestined us...

The word predestination literally means to *define, to mark out, to set apart to horizon.*

When it refers to God predestination has to do with God's purpose for those He chooses.

Predestination is never used in reference to unsaved people.

God has never predestined anyone to be lost or to go hell.

If a person goes to hell it is because they rejected the Holy Spirit's conviction.

Predestination refers only to the saved.

What it actually means is that when God starts out with 100 sheep He is going to come through with 100 sheep.

Those who are called according to His purpose are predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.

Romans 8:28-29...*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

For whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Then Roman 8:30 goes on to explain how this is done...

Moreover whom He predestined these He also called, whom He called these He also justified and whom He justified these He also glorified.

Ephesians 1:5 tells us what He predestined us to...

To adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself.

Adoption means we are brought into the place of son-ship.

Adoption into son ship means regeneration.

We have been regenerated by the Spirit of God meaning the child of God has been born again.

1st Peter 1:23 says *not of corruptible sees but of incorruptible by the Word of God which lives forever and abides forever.*

Adoption also means a place of position and privilege.

When we are saved we are born into the family of God and given the position of an adult son or daughter.

Verse 6...*To the praise of the glory of His grace by which He made us accepted in the beloved.*
The words *made us* means *bestowed grace upon.*

All of this is done on the basis of His grace and the end is the glory of God.

Verse 6 says *He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

The word Beloved is capitalized and it is referring to Jesus Christ.

What this means is God loves us just as He does Jesus because we are in Christ.

That means we have the right to cry out to God as Abba Father which in the Greek means:

Papa or Daddy or Daddy God, are terms of closeness and endearment affection and love.

You may be sitting there thinking what in the world does all that mean?

Here it is in a nutshell...

God has eternally formed His body which is the church...

If you are a Christian you are part of that body.

So don't allow yourself to struggle with self-worth because you are worthy.

Do not struggle with a sense of inadequacy because you are far above being adequate.

It means the resources of God are available to you and are unlimited you just have to use them.

It means God is more than a God He is your Abba Father or Daddy God.