

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
A STUDY OF EPHESIANS
#7: WHAT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ALL ABOUT
EPHESIANS 4:1-16
JIM HINTON



I. MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST ACCORDING TO EPHESIANS

1. Key verses:

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

Ephesians 1:3 (NLT)

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone. Knowing and activating and living out this purpose is the key to lasting happiness.

Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG)

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

2. Basic outline of Ephesians:

- I. What God has done (Chapters 1-3)**
- II. What I must do (Chapters 4-6)**

II. WHAT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ALL ABOUT—EPHESIANS 4:1-16

1. Unity – We are all one in Christ (v.1-6)

- Unifying calling (v.1)**

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

- Unifying characteristics (v.2-3)**

⇒ **Humility**

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6 (NIV)

Humility isn't thinking less of yourself – it is thinking of yourself less.

Unknown

⇒ **Gentleness**

⇒ **Patience**

⇒ **Love**

⇒ **Diligence**

- **Unifying Truth (v.4-6)**

2. Diversity: We have all been given different gifts in order to serve and strength one another (v.7-12)

Diverse gifts:

- **Apostles**

Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

Ephesians 2:20 (NLT)

- **Prophets**

- **Evangelists**

- **Pastors**

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NIV)

- **Teachers**

How to Discover my Gifts:

1. Keep growing in Christ and the Word
2. Pray for Guidance
3. Look for needs to meet
4. Determine my passion
5. Ask other godly people
6. Utilize tools like Spiritual Gifts Inventories
7. Experiment by serving in a variety of ministries
8. Evaluate the results

3. Maturity: We fulfill our purpose is to become like Jesus (v.13-16)