

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Redemption in Christ

EPHESIANS 1:7-10

OVERVIEW

Everything—literally everything—in heaven and on earth is being united in Christ (1:10). Only when we understand who Christ is can we begin to understand who we are. We often read Paul’s letters thinking about all Scripture calls us to do. But before Ephesians calls us to do anything, it reminds us what God has done in Christ.

Our identity is not based on what we do, but who we are. Our identity is not earned and achieved but declared and received. Our identity, as Christians, is found “in Christ.” We are united to Christ—and that changes everything about us! Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus explains what we were (apart from Christ), who we are (in Christ), and then how we should live as followers of Christ, all for the glory of Christ.

APPLY // EPHESIANS 1:4-6

1. Read Ephesians 1:1-6. What is the main idea of verses 4-6?
2. Why should the idea that God adopts us be “shocking” to us?
3. Paul emphasizes the Father’s love for us (“*in love he predestined us for adoption*”) and pleasure in adopting us (“*according to his will/good pleasure*”).
 - a. How does the Father’s affection for us help us fight sin?
 - b. How does the Father’s affection for us help us grow in our love for him?
 - c. How does the Father’s affection for us spur us on to serve the church (our brothers and sisters)?
 - d. How does the Father’s affection for us encourage us to evangelize the lost?
4. How does the doctrine of adoption help shape our identity? Where do you need to grow most in your understanding of God as a loving Father?
5. How does it encourage you to know Jesus is not ashamed to call you brother or sister (cf. Romans 8:29; Hebrews 2:11-13)?
6. How does the truth that we are sons and daughters of the Father help us live fully in this world while yearning for the world to come?

STUDY // EPHESIANS 1:7-10

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Ephesians 1:1-14.
2. What are the first two words of verse 7? Why is it important to not skip these words?

3. What does “redemption” mean?
 - a. Read the following verses to see some of what the Bible says about redemption: Romans 8:23; Galatians 3:13; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:13-15.
 4. What did our redemption cost and who paid the cost? What motivated this cost to be paid for us?
 5. Paul says our redemption and forgiveness are “according to the riches of his grace.” What does this phrase mean? What does this phrase tell us about the nature of our redemption? What does this tell us about the character of God?
 6. What does the word “lavished” indicate to you in verse 8?
 7. What does it mean that God did this “in all wisdom and insight”?
 8. According to verse 9, what has God revealed to us?
 9. Focus on verse 10. What is God’s plan?
 - a. What does “fullness of time” mean?
 - b. What does it mean “to unite all things in heaven and things on earth”?
 - c. How does this “uniting” fit into the overarching story of Scripture?
 10. Read Revelation 21:1-5, 22-27. How do you see these verses showing the fulfillment of God’s purpose as explained in Ephesians 1:10?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How are you encouraged by knowing that in Christ Jesus God is your Father? Are there areas where you doubt the Father’s love for you?