



stand

Forum

Ephesians (Theme)

As with all Pauline writing...

Because we are one (individually) with God through faith in Jesus Christ, we (collectively) are to be **one in the church for the sake of the Gospel** beyond the distinctions of this world that otherwise divide.

stand
Firm

Ephesians 1:3-2:9

Individually...

- We are one with the Father through faith in Jesus
- We have a new identity in Christ

Our Identity in Christ (1:3-14)

What is True About You

- Blessed by God w/every spiritual blessing
- Chosen by Him to be holy, blameless & loved
- Predestined to be adopted as His sons & daughters
- Favored
- Forgiven & Redeemed
- The riches of His grace lavished upon us
- Saved through faith in Jesus (the Gospel)
- Sealed by the Holy Spirit (i.e., a promised inheritance)

Ephesians 1:9-10

NOTE: *All "People Groups" not "Things"*

"In all wisdom and insight He made known to us **the mystery of His will** (Eph. 3:2-6; Rom. 16:25-26; Col. 1:24-27) ...to bring (Gr., *πάντα, pas*) **all people groups together in Christ**, (Gr., *τὰ, ὅ*) the(se) people groups (someday) **in the heavens** (Rev. 7:9) and (Gr., *τὰ, ὅ*) these people groups **on the earth** (i.e., via the local church)."

Confirmed in Ephesians 1:22-23

"And He put (Gr., *panta, pas*) all things people groups in subjection under His feet, and made Him to the church head over (Gr., *panta, pas*) all people groups, (i.e., the church) which is His body, the fullness of Him who accomplishes (the will of God by bringing together) all people groups (Gr., *ἐν, en*) in with all people groups (i.e., via the church on earth and someday in heaven)."

Ephesians 2:1-9

Paul's Summary of the Gospel

"For by grace you (i.e., y'all individually) have been saved through faith; and this *is* not of yourselves, it (salvation) is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one (person) may boast." (Eph. 2:8, 9)

Ephesians 2:10

NOTE: The break is between Eph. 2:9 & 2:10

Individually...

- We are one with the Father through faith in Jesus
- We have a new identity in Christ

Collectively...

- "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (2:10)

Ephesians 2:11-13

"Therefore remember that previously **you, the Gentiles** in the flesh...were (in the past) separate from Christ, excluded from the people of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who previously were far away (from that hope and God) have been brought near (to God and to His people, the Jews) by the blood of Christ.**"

Ephesians 2:14-16

"For He, Himself, is our (collective) peace, who made both *groups* (i.e., Jews & Gentiles) *into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the hostility (i.e., historic animosity between Jews & Gentiles)...so that He might make the two *people groups* one new person by establishing peace (between them where none had existed before); and...reconcile them both in one body (i.e., the church) to God through the cross, by (the cross) having put to death the hostility."

Ephesians 2:19-22

Metaphors of Multiethnic Church Unity in Christ

- Gentiles are fellow citizens w/Jews (in God's Kingdom)
- You (Jews & Gentiles) are all of God's household
- A building
 - Apostles & Prophets are the foundation
 - Jesus is the cornerstone
- A holy temple in the Lord
- A dwelling place of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 3:2-13

To Paul: The Revelation of the Mystery

"By revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before briefly. By referring to this (previous letter) when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ... *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are

- a) fellow heirs (with the Jews of eternal life) and
 - b) fellow (equitable) members of the body (the church)
 - c) fellow partakers of the promise (salvation)
- in Christ Jesus through the Gospel."

Ephesians 3:8-10

To Paul: The Administration of the Mystery

"To me, the very least of all saints, this grace (understanding of the mystery of Christ) was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to enlighten all things people (groups) as to what the plan of the mystery is (i.e., what the multiethnic church is and how it works) which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all people groups, so that the multifaceted (Gr. *multicolored*) wisdom of God might now be made known through the church..."

Ephesians 3:1, 14-19

From Paul: A Prayer for the Church

"For this reason I bend my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that being rooted and grounded in love, you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know (by way of experience) the love of Christ which surpasses (human) knowledge (of how this is otherwise possible), so that you may be completed (mature) to all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:20, 21

From Paul: An Expectation for the Church

Be one for the sake of the Gospel and the glory of God

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus..."

He is able to make us one... We must intentionally pursue.

Ephesians 4:1-3

From Paul: Instruction to the Church (HOW)

"Therefore I... urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called with all...

- humility
- gentleness
- patience,
- bearing with one another in love
- being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:4-6

From Paul: Instruction to the Church (WHY)

"(For) there is (only) one body and one Spirit

- one hope
- one Lord
- one faith
- one baptism
- one God and Father of all (people groups) who is over all (people groups) and (working) through all (people groups)."

Ephesians 4:7-32

From Paul: Instruction to the Church (WHAT)

- Use It: **Diverse Gifting in the Body** (4:7-16)
- Lose It: **Rid Yourselves of the Old Life** (17-32)
 - Speak truth and do not lie
 - Be angry yet do not sin; no more stealing
 - Don't give the Devil an opportunity
 - Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth
 - Do not grieve the Holy Spirit
 - Put away bitterness, wrath and anger
 - Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving

Ephesians 5:1-6:9

From Paul: Continued Instruction to the Church (WHAT)

- "...Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you (5:1-20)
- Understand (Gr., *hupostasis*) one another (5:21)
 - Wives, your husbands (5:22-24)
 - Husbands, your wives (5:25-33)
 - Children, your parents (6:1-3)
 - Parents, your children (6:4)
 - Slaves, your masters (6:5-8)
 - Masters, your slaves (6:9)

Ephesians 6:10-12

Final Instruction to the Church (STAND FIRM AS ONE)

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh (skin color) and blood (cultural heritage), but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore (collectively, as a church) take up the full armor of God..."



stand

FORM