

THE UNFADING BLUEPRINT

EPHESIANS 1:1-2

Further Up, Further In

We have God's Word by Jesus' authority.

1:1a

We are holy in Jesus through faith.

We have peace with God through the grace of Jesus. 1:2

Outline of Ephesians

Opening Greeting 1:1-2

SIT in Your New Identity in Christ 1:3-3:21

- Praise for God's Blessings in Christ 1:3-14
- Prayer of Thanksgiving and for Knowledge of God 1:15-23
- From Death to Life 2:1-10
- Remember Your Past and Your Present 2:11-22
- Paul's Stewardship and Service of God's Mystery 3:1-13
- Prayer for Maturity, Power, and Knowledge of God's Love 3:14-21

WALK in a Transformed Life Worthy of Christ 4:1-6:9

- Walk in Unity 4:1-6
- Walk in Maturity Through a Diversely Gifted Community 4:7-16
- Walk According to the New Self 4:17-24
- Walk in Love 4:25-5:2
- Walk as Children of Light 5:3-14
- Walk Carefully 5:15-21
- Walk with Spirit-filled Lives in Relationships 5:22-6:9

STAND Firm in the Strength of Christ 6:10-20

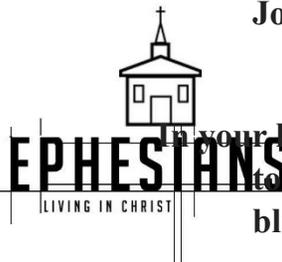
Closing Commendation 6:21-24

Read Ephesians 1:1-2. What stands out to you in the first 2 verses of the book? Why?

Looking over the outline of Ephesians, find the verses where Paul speaks of sitting, walking, and standing, and explain what he means. Why do you think Paul structured the letter this way? How does this instruct us on how to live in Christ?

How is the idea of being "in Christ" important in verses 1-2? Where do you see the idea of being "in Christ" in the rest of 1:3-14? How does this make a difference in your life?

How is it that the Ephesians are both "in Ephesus" and "in Christ?" What implications does this have for our lives (cf. John 17:14-16; Phil 3:20)?



In your life, where do you need fresh reminders of what it means to live in Christ? How can Ephesians be that fresh blueprint for you?

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Consider this week reading some of the background to the church at Ephesus in Acts 18:19-20:38.