



We have been considering the questions of *existence* (why am I alive?), *significance* (does my life matter?), and *intention* (what is my purpose?). Or as Rick Warren puts it: “what on earth am I here for?” The ultimate conclusion is that “nothing matters more than knowing God’s purposes for your life, and nothing can compensate for not knowing them” (p. 29).

The first of five purposes is that you were planned for God’s pleasure, to have a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Worship and friendship with God are two indicators of a healthy understanding and practice of this first purpose.

We will now look at the second of five purposes: you were formed for God’s family. God wants to have a family and you were created to be a part of it. The Bible refers to this family as the Church, “the bride of Christ” or “the body of Christ.”

1. What are some of the ways that you benefit from this time together? How is this small group setting different from a one-on-one appointment?
2. Read John 1:12 and Galatians 3:26. Every member of the human race has been made in the image of God. We are *all* His creation. How do we become *children* of God, members of His family?
3. Read Ephesians 1:5 and 1:18. What are some of the implications of adoption on the adopted child?
4. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. What are some of the benefits of being “in Christ,” in God’s family? [Hint: look at the verbs!]
5. Read Ephesians 1:15-23. What are the practical, daily implications of this relationship with God?
6. How would you treat your Christian colleagues differently, if you truly saw them as your brother or sister—members of your own family? What one thing will you do this week?

*“See how very much our heavenly Father loves us,
for He allows us to be called His children, and we really are!” (1 John 3:1)*

EPHESIANS 1:1-2:10

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:
2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love
5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--
6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace
8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,
10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfilment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,
20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

23 which is his body, the fulness of him who fills everything in every way.

2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

9 not by works, so that no-one can boast.

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.