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### "OUR NEW IDENTITY"

by Carol Gordon

**"I, Paul, am under God's plan as an apostle, a special agent of Christ Jesus to you faithful Christians in Ephesus. I greet you with the grace and peace you all receive from God our Father and our Master, Jesus Christ." (Eph. 1:1-2, The Message)**

It is amazing how many times one can read a Scripture and then receive a whole new perspective of what it is saying. I have prayed Paul's prayers from all of his letters many times for myself and for all of you. I have the first chapter of Ephesians all marked up in my Bibles. Just recently the verses before he starts to say what he prays just lit up for me. He was pouring out revelation he had on what the Lord had done in making us new in Himself! It is a wonderful description of our identity in Christ, as well as a wonderful encouragement for doing it.

I especially like the word "poured" used in the Message Bible, above. Paul talks about being filled, or full of Him in many places. A very simple picture of the Gospel that I gave me is, "He was Killed, Spilled, so we could be Filled". His whole purpose was to live with Himself and live through us forever, bringing Heaven to earth!

I have a picture of one of my young grandsons at about eight months pulling up where I was sitting with a bright look on his face that said, "Here I am!" Even though he knew he was welcomed with delight. Children learn to define themselves by the attitudes and input of their parents and others around them.

So much of our lives are a struggle to find who we are. Many people come to wrong conclusions about themselves because they believe the lies of the world. Rejection and dishonor come early, because the enemy sees to it. All the while, we have the Word of God with all the specifications, if we would only believe what He says about ourselves.

In verses three through fourteen of Ephesians 1, we find an astounding array of ways to identify ourselves. First, which agrees with the first words to Adam in Genesis 1:3, "He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing" (v 3). The original purpose of man, to have the highest possible good, has been reinstated by Jesus' sacrifice. We

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This is a long-term plan, since **"He (Father) chose us in Him (Son) before the of the world"** (v 4). When They agreed on the plan of redemption, you and I were specifically, since They knew us in eternity. What love has been provided for us: sin nature, not just our mess ups and mistakes, has been paid for and we have makeover: **"that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love"** of that! We are pure in His eyes, and He is not blaming us for anything. Now trying to fix blame. **CHOSEN, PURE and BLAMELESS!**

Since He originally created us to be Sons and Daughters, He has now bought **"Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to good pleasure of His will"** (v 5). Think of it! We are again the children of the Father, who is ready to re-parent us in any way we need it! **ADOPTED!**

If we never felt accepted or that we belonged, now, by **"the glory of His grace He made us accepted in the Beloved"** (v 6) we can be whole. All things are grace, the pouring out of Himself on our behalf! How this speaks to a heart that has suffered tons of rejection and lost hope! Each of us is Papa's favorite! **ACCEPTED!**

**"In Him we have redemption through His blood"** (v 7). We have been lost or separated by the tricks of the enemy, but now we have been found, bought back, our sins forgiven and returned to our original owner! That is what redemption means - bought back to our original owner. Glory to God! This is something we could NEVER do for ourselves. He gave His own precious blood as the price! Some think they have messed up too badly to be wanted by Him again, but that is not so. In the process we have also been washed clean. He provided **"the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"** His blood is so much more powerful than we realize - it cleanses to the uttermost. No defilement can withstand it. **REDEEMED and FORGIVEN!**

When we respond to Him, we receive many other benefits as well. He makes it possible for us to retrain ourselves to think like Him, so we can walk in agreement with His purposes. **"He made [grace] to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, which has been made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself"** (vv 8 & 9). He makes available for us a completely different life, one that includes a destiny we never dreamed of. **WISDOM!**

One of the benefits is the answer to His own prayer, in John 17, for us to be on the same page with each other. This means His goal is that we have healthy relationships and interactions with EVERYONE! That is His desire, and we can certainly work on it in Heaven. **"That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather up all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth"** (v10). If that is His desire, it should become ours as well. **UNITY!**

**"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will"** We have inheritance in this new family we have been born into. We are heirs of His faithful promise. **"The gospel of your salvation; in Whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, Who is the guarantee of our inheritance, the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory"** (vv 13-14) **INHERITANCE!** What a Father! What a Savior!



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### NEWS AND NOTES FOR JULY

Dear Partners and Friends:

So far, summer in Oklahoma has been WET. It poured on the Fourth of July. The regular fireworks display at the park, but we did not go to the parade or to the park. It was too soggy. We're very green, but hard to find a dry day to mow. My tomatoes have not produced quickly, but now the plants have about drowned.

I attended the FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP FAMILY CONFERENCE in Tulsa. I presented two workshops on CHECKUP ON FAMILY AND MARRIAGE MINISTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY. It was well received. I got to visit with old friends and make some new ones.

My June guests on HeartMenders.tv were Tyler Joe Williams, Keith Burdette, and Dr. K.C. George. I am enjoying this so much! Be sure to tune in on Tuesday at 12:30 pm Central Time to see who is new! The shows are available anytime. Look for a new link on the website, HeartMenders.org, for THE COACH.

**AGAIN I URGE YOU TO BE FAITHFUL IN PRAYER! PRAYER RELEASES THE POWER OF THE LORD IN YOUR SPIRIT! CHALLENGES ABOUND, NEAR AND FAR. KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON THE LIGHT OF THE LORD AND NOT ON THE DARKNESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES. CARRY THE LIGHT OF THE LORD TO YOUR FAMILY AND THE BODY OF CHRIST! Pray for A GREAT AWAKENING and for HIM TO CRY OUT TO HIM.** Especially pray for the Gulf Coast and the military. Again, I encourage you to join any of our prayer teams, for HM Prayer Requests, HM Support Team Outreach. Do be part of a prayer group where you live. Always include your loved ones and Heart Menders, as well.

Praise the Lord for our financial partners for their faithful love and support. You are, big or small, are greatly appreciated. It is vital that we share the message of healing broken hearts and restoration of families.

Please keep praying, "LORD, HELP CAROL FULFILL YOUR CALL ON HER LIFE!"

Your sister in Him,

*Carol Gordon*

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- Prayer Requests for Needs for Healing
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