

February 20, 2016

Ephesians 1:9-15

God loved you, chose you, created you, adopted you, purchased you, redeemed you, forgave you, and sealed you. You are His. There is nothing you did to earn these spiritual blessings. It was solely rooted in His character, desire and good pleasure. Therefore, the stability of your relationship with God is not dependent upon you or your performance.

Amidst the truth of God's immeasurable love for you, there is an even greater story at play. God displayed His plan by uniting Jews and Gentiles as one under Christ, and is in the process of bringing everything in the universe under His authority. Unlike humans who crave control and, when given it, come up short, God has the vision, the plan, and the power to unite "everything in heaven and on earth."

Questions

1. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit marks/seals, comforts, advocates, convicts, instructs and directs. It is not His role, however, to make everything work out perfectly on earth or make things comfortable in your life. In what ways do you find yourself looking to Him for the latter?
2. Oftentimes, we long for this world to be different (better/perfect), yet it was corrupted. How can knowing that your greatest problem has already been solved impact the way you live on a day-to-day basis?
3. What does it look like when you over-identify with failure or success rather than your true identity? What does it take to be tethered to what is true rather than to what is coming and going?
4. Discuss what it means to receive an inheritance. What would be an appropriate response to the spiritual inheritance we have received as followers of Christ?
5. How do you know in the dark moments of great fear - and perhaps even death - that God will "meet" you? Have you experienced such a moment? If so, please share.