

To Unite All Things

10-11-26

Ephesians 1:10 (ESV)

The plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in Christ.

God has a plan to fix this mess. HE is going to unite all things in heaven and earth through Christ and the church. Interestingly the word for plan can literally mean “The management of household affairs.” So, to unite everything, God wants us to properly manage HIS household, the church.

1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

You need to know how to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and foundation of the truth.

Therefore, Ephesians shows us how God is going to unite all things in heaven and on earth through the church. In Ephesians we are going look at the make-up, function, and management of the church. As a note the NIV nicely translates this section and Ephesians as a whole. However, I will use the ESV which is a more literal translation that helps me make certain specific teaching points.

For instance, look at verse 1.

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

The NIV translates saints as God's holy people, which is a correct. However, the word is saints meaning those set apart, meaning all Christians. But I do like the NIV's translation, God's holy people, because people can read the word saints and misinterpret the meaning as some special group of holy Christians. The Catholic church will often designate some special person as a saint with special honor which is not Biblical. Therefore, Ephesians reveals that each believer in Christ Jesus is blessed by God the Father and Jesus Christ with every "spiritual" blessing in heaven.

Ephesians 1:3 (ESV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every "spiritual" blessing in the heavenly places.

Please notice the word "spiritual"! This word is not found in the OT or in the gospels.

It is a word used only after Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given to each believer. **This Word is solely a NT church Word.** This Word identifies the NT power of the believer and the church. We are the fulfillment of God's plan with all the spiritual blessings heaven has to offer which is necessary to unite all things in Christ through the church. Not only are we blessed by God, but we were also chosen by God before the creation of the world through the work of Christ even before HE actually died on the cross.

Ephesians 1:4 (ESV)

God chose us in HIM before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before HIM.

The Bible says we have free will, and that also God chose us before creation. This is difficult to comprehend. Personally, I am content with a simple illustration: There is a door in heaven that has written on it, "Enter whoever believes"! Once you go through the door you turn and see written on the other side of the door, "Chosen before creation!" Choosing us, God predestines us to be adopted Sons. This can only come through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Ephesians 1:5–6 (ESV)

In love God predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of HIS will, to the praise of HIS glorious grace, with which HE has blessed us in the Beloved.

Fascinating, God looks down on earth and is grieved by this mess on earth, but HE has a plan, the mystery hidden for ages that not even the angels including Satan can comprehend. God choses people predestined for adoption to be HIS legitimate children. God choses us to be holy and blameless, but God pays a heavy price for this to happen.

Ephesians 1:7–9 (ESV)

⁷ In HIM we have redemption through HIS blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of HIS grace, ⁸ which HE lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of HIS will, according to HIS purpose, which HE set forth in Christ.

Redemption of God's people the forgiveness of sin comes through Jesus' Blood. The Mystery revealed; the Plan is Christ and the church. The Plan! Let me give you the short version:

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

We need to know nothing except Jesus Christ and HIM crucified.

Or the most well-known version:

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that HE gave HIS only Son, that whoever believes in HIM should not perish but have eternal life.

This is God's eternal solution to unite all things in heaven and on earth. The Church the eternal Bride of Christ! Brothers and sisters, do not fear. Do not be discouraged! Rejoice! God will unite all things in heaven and on earth through Christ and the church.

Ephesians 1:10 (ESV)

The plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in Christ.

Jesus came and proclaimed God's Plan!

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through ME."