

# EPHESIANS

## Being Who We Are...

### Part 3: Empowered Through Christ

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Our identity as a church and as individual believers is rooted in how we see **God** and how we see **ourselves**.

The resulting perspective makes up our **identity**.

Many believe our worth to ourselves and others is the result of **our** hard work.

God instead desires for us to embrace our worth and identity through **Christ** living in us.

### Essential Potential

Our identity in Christ gives us the **potential** to do incredible things individually and as a church.

**Ephesians 3:14-21** *So I bow in prayer before the Father<sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth gets its true name.<sup>16</sup> I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit.<sup>17</sup> I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love.<sup>18</sup> And I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love—how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is.<sup>19</sup> Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.<sup>20</sup> With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.<sup>21</sup> To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever. Amen.*

The key to unleashing our potential is embracing **essential** elements:

Essential Element #1: Godly **strength** and **fearlessness**.

Essential Element #2: **Sustained** faith.

Essential Element #3: **Focused** understanding.

Essential Element #4: Capacity for **greatness**.

Embracing the essential elements of faith and identity through Christ allows us to **experience** and **focus** Godly power:

**2 Corinthians 9:12-14** *What you do to serve others not only provides for the needs of God's people, but also produces more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God.<sup>13</sup> You will honor God through this genuine act of service because of your commitment to spread the Good News of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else.<sup>14</sup> With deep affection they will pray for you because of the extreme kindness that God has shown you.*

Such a powerful identity allows us to:

Serve others in a way that makes a **difference**.

Serve in a way that **leads** others to Christ.

Serve in a way that **inspires** worship.

## Turning Point...

Embracing our identity in Christ is realizing the **power** of our **testimony**.

**1 Peter 3:8-17** *Last of all, you must share the same thoughts and the same feelings. Love each other with a kind heart and with a mind that has no pride.<sup>9</sup> When someone does something bad to you, do not do the same thing to him. When someone talks about you, do not talk about him. Instead, pray that good will come to him. You were called to do this so you might receive good things from God.<sup>10</sup> For "If you want joy in your life and have happy days, keep your tongue from saying bad things and your lips from talking bad about others.<sup>11</sup> Turn away from what is sinful. Do what is good. Look for peace and go after it.<sup>12</sup> The Lord watches over those who*

are right with Him. He hears their prayers. But the Lord is against those who sin.”<sup>13</sup> Who will hurt you if you do what is right?<sup>14</sup> But even if you suffer for doing what is right, you will be happy. Do not be afraid or troubled by what they may do to make it hard for you.<sup>15</sup> Your heart should be holy and set apart for the Lord God. Always be ready to tell everyone who asks you why you believe as you do. Be gentle as you speak and show respect.<sup>16</sup> Keep your heart telling you that you have done what is right. If men speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see the good way you have lived as a Christian.<sup>17</sup> If God wants you to suffer, it is better to suffer for doing what is right than for doing what is wrong.