



INTEGRATION:

Becoming who we are

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- (Building in CA – earthquake proof)
- What you believe about yourself is the foundation of your life. If you build off of a faulty foundation, no matter how splendid the building material, your house will be in shambles. We must secure the foundation.

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- Ephesians 1:1-3, “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to God’s holy people in Ephesus, the faithful (*believing*) in Christ Jesus: Grace (*favor, 12x*) and peace (*8x*) to you from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ. Praise (*blessed*) be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms (*5x*) with every spiritual blessing *in Christ.*”

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- We bless God because He blessed us. This opening sentence is a complex sentence of 202 words that enumerates how God has blessed us, and why we bless Him. There are 4 blessings listed that we will examine in the next few weeks (chose, forgave, chose, sealed). (Note: spiritual (HS) blessings come from the heavenly realms – spiritual context)

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- Ephesians 1:4-6, “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- **We bless God because we are chosen in Christ from eternity past.** In Christ is a key phrase throughout Ephesians. It refers to our union, our relationship, our privilege by grace in Christ. It occurs 30x (11x in the 1st chapter). (Hidden in Christ – protected, covered, babies in pouch) (in a family – privileges of family)

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- **We bless God because we are chosen in Christ from eternity past.**
- Unless we understand who we are in Christ, we will never live out our fullest potential. We are chosen – this is not to be exclusive.
(playground – chosen or not) (not comparative; value; belonging; eternity past – bedrock)

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- **We bless God because we are chosen in Him to be holy & blameless in His presence.** This is the purpose of our being chosen. We are chosen to be purified by Jesus; our souls are purged, cleansed, and our lives are transformed (inside out) (confessions – adultery, abortion, perversion – shame, dirty)

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- **We bless God because we are chosen in Him to be holy & blameless in His presence.**
- We are becoming who we are (holy ones – 9x). (Jn 8:32) We are holy & blameless in His sight, our heart has been changed - now we are to live it out. (internal change; e.g., the more you know you are loved, the more loving you'll be vs. have to grasp love)

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- **We bless God because we are chosen in love for adoption to sonship.** We were called into close personal relationship with the Father. He made this decision from a heart full of love. Under Roman law, an adopted child acquired all of the legal rights of a natural-born child & was released from the control of his natural father. (family name; inheritance; adoption is about belonging; privilege)

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- **We bless God because we are chosen in love for adoption to sonship.**
- Why emphasize chosen? (Pagan background, astrology, fate. Shame factor; Magic to manipulate & appease deities vs Good Father) (paying \$ to break spell) Their fate does not rest with capricious spirits occupying the heavenly realms, but their fate & eternity rests in the hands of the one true God.

BECOMING WHO WE ARE:

- **We bless God because we are chosen in love for adoption to sonship.**
- He chose us on the basis of the good pleasure of His will – not based on us, on who we are or what we do or what we have. Based on Him; His will. It pleased God to choose you. (Naughty children – Child psychologist)