

“WE HAVE NO BRAGGING RIGHTS”
EPHESIANS 1:1-14
JUNE 1, 2008

INTRO

God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – has blessed us with every resource that we need to live a spiritual life and to be His Church – the Body of Christ.

We are one with our believing brothers and sisters because we all share these same resources (foundational / positional blessings) in Christ.

It is our solemn duty to believe God and to appropriate and use these resources “to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (4:3)

MESSAGE All three members of the Trinity are involved in creating the Church – the Body of Christ

The Father (1:1-16)

He chose us. (3-4)

He predestined us to adoption. (5-6)

The Son (1:7-12)

He redeemed us. (7-8)

He made the Father’s will known to us. (9-10)

He gave us an inheritance. (11-12)

The Holy Spirit (1:13-14)

He sealed us. (13-14)

APPLICATION

1. God gets all the glory and honor and praise for His work in creating the Church – the Body of Christ. (1:6; 1:12; 1:14)
 - (1) God has, from eternity past, planned to sum up all things in Christ.
 - (2) The summing up of all things in Christ is God’s plan for human history. It is also the climax, the culmination of human history. It is the conclusion of God’s plan for time, and the commencement of God’s plan for men in eternity.
 - (3) God is sovereign, in control of all history, so that His plan to sum up all things in Christ is certain.

- (4) The plan to sum up all things in Christ is the result and the reflection of God's infinite wisdom and insight (Ephesians 1:8; see also Romans 11:33-36).
 - (5) The summing up of all things in Christ centers in the person of Christ, in His first and second comings.
 - (6) The summing up of all things in Christ provides for the reversal of the fall of Adam, and the restoration of all creation from its devastating effects (see Romans 5:12-21 and 8:19-25).
 - (7) God's plan to sum up all things in Christ was a mystery until after the coming of Christ. The plan to sum up all things in Christ is one made in eternity past. It is a plan that God partially revealed in time. This plan was a mystery in that it was not revealed in full and in that it was not understood.
2. God has made His Church all "one" in Christ. We are to preserve that unity. We have no reason to put down, judge, criticize, embarrass, persecute, or be arrogant with any member of the Body of Christ.

CONCLUSION