

**EPHESIANS 1:1-14**

**READ** the passage:

What does it mean to be adopted as God's children (1:5)?

What does it mean to be "under the authority of Christ" (1:10)?

What does being under the authority of Christ imply about learning to work together?  
What does this suggest about exclusiveness in the body of Christ?

How does Christ identify all believers (1:13)?

Families are important because in them we discover who we are. A strong, supportive family helps to build our confidence and sense of worth. Our Christian identity is bolstered by our involvement in God's family. Paul understood the importance of the church as a kind of family that teaches us what it means to be a Christian. All believers share a common identity based on faith in Christ. And our common identity is so much more important than our differences. All Christians should remember that they live together in God's family with a common heritage, a common identity, a common purpose, and a common eternal future; and they should seek to live in harmony.

What does Ephesians 1:1–14 teach about what Christians have in common?

What characteristics of healthy family relationships should be evident in our dealings with others in the church?

What tends to weaken the sense of family in your church? What can be done to guard against those conditions?

What can be done to strengthen the sense of family in your church?

Thank God for choosing you to be a part of his family. Ask him to show you what else you can do to be a positive contributor to the family. What can you do this week to be a better member of your church family?

MORE for studying other themes in this section:

**A** What does the title "apostle" mean? What special qualification does Paul have for using this title? What credentials are important in churches today? Why?

**B** Why was Ephesus such a strategically important church for the spread of the gospel? What is strategic about your church's location?

**C** Predestination is viewed differently by various denominations. Regardless of the differences in interpretation, what are the positive implications of being "chosen"?

**D** What is the "secret plan" (1:9) to which Paul refers, and how will it be revealed when the time is fulfilled? What part of the secret plan has been revealed? What remains a mystery for us?

**E** What are some of the terms Paul uses to emphasize our standing as God's chosen children? What rights and privileges does this give us?

**F** God works out everything "just as he decided long ago" (1:11). Describe God's purpose and plan for your life.