

We continue our UNITED study of the book of Ephesians with a recap of Ephesians 1–3 and we will notice something striking. Many people approach the Bible as a guide to life. It tells them how to live. However, Paul hasn't given the Ephesians a single command in these first three chapters. Why? Because Christians don't obey to become, but since they've become they obey.

3. Becoming BEFORE Obeying: ORDER Matters (Eph 4:1)

1. Obeying BEFORE Becoming: It's a TRAP

1. I OBEY a god to BECOME blessed (Eph 2:8-10)

2. I OBEY myself to BECOME blessed (Eph 4:17–24)

2. Becoming BEFORE Obeying: It's a TREASURE.

1. Because I've BECOME blessed IN CHRIST, I now OBEY (Eph 4:1)

2. Since we're UNITED to God, we now LOVE God.

3. Since we're UNITED to One Another, we now LOVE One Another.

1. BECOMING Before Obeying: What GOD has done (Ephesians 1–3)

1. We ARE...

1. UNITED to God (1:1–2:10, 3:14–21)

2. UNITED to One Another (2:11–3:6)

3. WONDROUS to Heavenly Beings (3:7–13)

2. Becoming Before OBEYING: How WE must live (Ephesians 4–6)

1. We MUST...

1. LOVE God (Eph 5:6–10, 6:21–24)

2. LOVE One Another (Eph 4:1–6:9)

3. WITHSTAND Heavenly Beings (6:10–20)



Becoming Before Obeying

Ephesians 1–3

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Growth Groups are the glue which holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org.

This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody together our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, and Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group Interaction Guide to help groups move in that direction.

Connecting Together

Growth Group time is family time! Take time to share your Thanksgiving plans. What is your favorite part of the traditional thanksgiving meal?

Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. How did you come under God's Word in the message this week? How did God speak to you this week? What truth did you need to hear again or for the first time in this message?
2. Explain the significance of the "So then..." in 2:19.
3. What in your life seeks to draw you towards identifying as an alien and stranger instead of a citizen and member of the household of God?

4. **Your Growth Group as a Family:** What kind of belonging do you experience as a Christian? What false foundations have you built your life on in the past/present?

5. **Your Growth Group as a Servant/Missionary:** How does the reality of the Spirit's present indwelling of the people of God inform and encourage your service/mission to those around you? How does the eternal picture of dwelling together in perfect unity with God and one another inform and encourage your service/mission to those around you?

Praying Together

- Pray through your Identity.
- Pray through your Belonging.
- Pray through your Purpose.
- Pray for group needs.