

Ephesians

Philosophy of Ministry

Doctrine / Identity 1–3

- What God has done for us in Christ

Practice / Conduct 4–6

- How we now live in Christ

Identity in Christ Changes Everything

Ephesians confronts modern self-definition by teaching that true identity is not discovered within, constructed by desire, or validated by culture—but given by God through union with Christ.

Our Identity in Christ

We have every
spiritual
blessing

We are
chosen

Adopted

Redeemed

An Inheritance

Hope of
resurrection

Sealed by the
Holy Spirit

Seated with
Him in the
heavens

New Creation

Empowered
for Good
Works

Built together
as God's
dwelling place

We are
Reconciled

Fellow Heirs

Living in Light of Our Identity

We are able to
live for Christ
and for each
other

We are able to
speak truth
and love
together

We are able to
allow others to
speak into our
lives as we
speak into
theirs

We are able to
be vulnerable
and
interdependant

Category	Old Self	New Self
Basic Orientation	“Walk as the Gentiles do” (4:17)	“Learn Christ” (4:20)
Mind	Futility of mind (4:17)	Renewed mind (4:23)
Understanding	Darkened understanding (4:18)	Enlightened by truth in Jesus (4:21)
Relationship to God	Alienated from God (4:18)	Reconciled and near to God
Heart	Hardened heart (4:18)	Soft, responsive heart
Sensitivity to Sin	Callous, past feeling (4:19)	Spirit-led discernment
Desire	Deceitful desires (4:22)	God-shaped desires
Sexual Ethics	Sensuality, impurity, greed (4:19; 5:3)	Sexual holiness and self-control (5:3–5)
Speech	Falsehood, corrupt talk (4:25, 29)	Truthful, edifying speech (4:25, 29)

Category	Old Self	New Self
Anger	Sinful, lingering anger (4:26–27)	Controlled, righteous response
Work & Possessions	Stealing, self-centered use (4:28)	Honest work, generous sharing (4:28)
Relational Posture	Bitterness, wrath, malice (4:31)	Kindness, compassion, forgiveness (4:32)
Model / Pattern	Worldly patterns	God as imitator; Christ as model (5:1–2)
Love	Self-gratifying desire	Sacrificial, Christlike love (5:2)
Light vs. Darkness	Darkness; fruitless works (5:8, 11)	Light; fruitful living (5:8–9)
Wisdom	Foolish, unwise living (5:15)	Wise, discerning living (5:15–17)
Control	Drunkenness / excess (5:18)	Filled with the Spirit (5:18)
Worship & Gratitude	Complaining, emptiness	Worship, thanksgiving, praise (5:19–21)
Community Posture	Self-assertion	Mutual submission (5:21)

A Word on Worship as Music



Paul presents **four interconnected expressions of Spirit-filled worship:**

Singing

Heart-directed
praise

Gratitude

Mutual submission



Paul assumes here, and uses elsewhere, music as a means to learn theological truth

That unifies the
Body

That tunes our
hearts

A Testimony of God's
Mercy, Grace, and
Faithfulness