IDENTITY LIFE IN CHRIST

EPHESIANS

GOD'S GRACE FOR MUTUAL GROWTH **IDENTITY** LIFE IN CHRIST

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1. Chapters 1-3: <u>Doctrine</u> Concerning the Church The doctrinal basis for believers' unity "in Christ".

The new LIFE which God has given us "in Christ" (1:3-2:10)

The new SOCIETY which God created "in Christ" (2:11-3:21)

2. Chapters 4-6: <u>Duties</u> of the Church (Practical) What life "in Christ" looks like personally as well as interpersonally in the church, workplace, and home.

The new **STANDARDS** which God expects of his new society – *unity* and *purity* (4:1-5:21).

The new **RELATIONSHIPS** into which God has brought us — *harmony* in the home and *hostility* to the devil (5:21-6:24).

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"Now the apostle moves on from the new society to the new standards which are expected of it. So he turns from exposition to exhortation, from what God has done (in the indicative) to what we must be and do (in the imperative), from doctrine to duty, from mindstretching theology to its down-to-earth, concrete implications in everyday living."

John R. W. Stott, <u>The Message of Ephesians</u> in *The Bible Speaks Today* (BST), 1979.

Theater in Ephesus m