

Marriage Matters (Part 1)

Your Identity in Christ

Ephesians 1:1-14 – ³Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. ⁵He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the right time—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him. ¹¹In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, ¹²so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory. ¹³In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. ¹⁴The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory. (CSB)

Life's most important questions:

I. Who am I?

Hebrews 11:24 – By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter (SCB)

II. How am I supposed to **act**?

Hebrews 11:25 – and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. (CSB)

A. I can't live off of someone else's **spiritual commitment**.

1 Corinthians 2:14 – But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually. (CSB)

B. I can't blame others for my **situation in life**.

C. You are free to choose how you **response in life**.

III. What is really **most important**?

Hebrews 11:26 – For he considered reproach for the sake of Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since he was looking ahead to the reward. (CSB)

A. God's purpose is more important than **position**.

B. People are more important than **pleasures**.

C. God's presence is more important than **possessions**.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (CSB)

IV. How much are you willing to **sacrifice**?

Hebrews 11:27 – By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger, for Moses persevered as one who sees him who is invisible. (CSB)

Thought for the Week:

You weren't just given a **bath**,
you were given a whole new **nature**!

Todd Hitchcock - Bethel Baptist Church May 28, 2017 Message Notes
