

## Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

1. God's desire toward us is Grace and Peace, 1:2. That is, 1:2 is not just a greeting to the Ephesians. Since this is also God's Word to us, this is God's disposition toward us too.
2. Every blessing we have as Christians is because we have been forever fused with Christ, 1:3.
3. We should praise and truly be grateful for God the Father because He united us to His Son and thereby blessed us with so much, i.e., He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, adopted us as His children and thereby highly favored us, forgave all our sins, revealed His mystery plan concerning His Son which has us participating in Christ's eternal reign, and His Holy Spirit sealed us and guarantees our inheritance in Christ, 1:1-14.
4. Before He created the world, God the Father chose us in Christ so that we would one day stand perfect before Him in love, 1:4.
5. God the Father was pleased to decide in advance that He would adopt us as His children and thereby favoring us highly, 1:5-6.
6. God the Father's grace is so abundant that He forgave all our sins because of our position in Christ. Thus, we have been redeemed; He will never hold any of our sins against us, 1:7.
7. God the Father was pleased to reveal His plan to us that one day Christ will rule this entire universe (including every spiritual force that exists) and we will participate in His reign, 1:9-11.
8. The moment we believed in Christ, the Holy Spirit sealed us inside Jesus, 1:13.
9. God's Holy Spirit is the down payment; He's the one who guarantees the inheritance we have in Christ, 1:14. This means that you should be experiencing triumph and rulership over this world and your life right now...are you?
10. God the Father is: the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father to whom all glory belongs, and the one whose Spirit reveals to us who God is and how our relationship with Him works, 1:17-18.
11. God wants to be just as active in your life as He was in Jesus' life, 1:17-23. Everything He did for Jesus, He wants to do for you: He wants to speak with you about every facet of your life. He wants to be there for every triumph, every defeat, everything. Is God that present in your life?
12. God's awesome power, the one He used to raise Jesus from the dead and seat Him far above every power, dominion, and name for all eternity—including the devil and his minions—that same power is actually available to us! 1:19-21. Have you felt it? Have you called on it? If you haven't, why not?
13. God the Father gave Jesus to us, i.e., Jesus—who is Head over EVERYTHING—is our Head too. Thus, we are forever joined to Jesus; we are His Body and He is our Head, 1:22-23. If Jesus is your Head, what kind of thoughts do you have? What kind of actions do you take? Are your actions guided by your mind or Jesus'?
14. Our union with Christ is so transformative that it: granted us sonship and favor in God's family, wiped our sins away, granted us access to God's mystery plan, gave us participation in His Son's eternal reign, permanently sealed us inside Jesus, gave us access to God's wisdom on how our relationship with Him works, granted us access to His awesome power, and gave us His Son as a permanent Guide to lead us through this life and the life to come, 1:3-23.