

WELCOME

True Disciple. Do you consider yourself a true disciple of Christ? If so, in what ways is this manifested in your life?

WORD

Ephesians 1:1-14 (NLT)

¹ This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus. ² May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. ³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

(Read **Ephesians 1:1-14** in its entirety.)

Paul, the author of Ephesians, wrote this letter to the city of Ephesus stating the spiritual blessings of the believers of Christ and describing the dimensions of His eternal purpose and grace for those who are united in Christ and faithful to Him. Paul also illustrates to us the fullness of God's favour and the sufficiency of His grace and kindness. In the first few verses, Paul wrote about the Triune God that we worship, and highlighted up until **verse 14** how God has chosen, accepted, redeemed, enlightened, and secured us all of His sons and daughters. One key point is that God truly cares for us, that even before the creation of the world, He predestined us to belong in his spiritual household.

God tells us clearly in His Word that salvation is available for everyone, but only those who put their faith in Christ belong to those chosen in Christ based on **verse 4**. **1 John 2:2** tells us that, "*He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*" He desires for everyone to come to repentance and not to perish (**2 Peter 3:9**). He accepted us, just the way we are; whatever we have done and become, and sent Jesus to redeem us through His blood. He has forgiven us and lavished His grace on us. He has also enlightened us to His Word, to come to know Him fully, and to obtain the inheritance He reserved for us (**verse 11**). Lastly, He marked us, and sealed us, claiming that we are His, and that we are liberated from the bondage of sin (**verse 14**). What an elaborate picture of how God truly cares for us! We are immensely loved, unconditionally forgiven, and evidently secured in our relationship with Him.

As we ponder how this truth affects the course of our daily lives, this should have both internal implications and external enactment from us.

▲ TRUE DISCIPLE CARES FOR OTHERS

God revealed to us and shows us day by day how much He cares for us, His disciples. The overflow of this is how we care for others, the people around us, especially those who need it the most. We are to extend this same kind of care to others as we become true disciples and make disciples.

Here are some practical ways on how to actively show genuine care to others:

We are to **consider** them as more important than ourselves and not merely look out for our own personal interests.

We are to **assist** them and be of help to them based on our capabilities. Whatever they might need, we are to be ready to help and lend a hand.

We are to **regard** their feelings, be mindful of their situation, and show deep concern to whatever they are going through.

We are to **encourage** them with our words and actions, and intentionally support them however we can.

We are to **sacrifice** for them by spending our time, energy, and resources while building stronger relationships with them.

Essentially, a true disciple shows genuine care for others by directing them to the one who cares for us the most, so much that He died on the cross to redeem us and give us an eternal life—Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members.)

1. **Follower of Christ.** Do you think you are one of the chosen, accepted, redeemed, enlightened, and sealed based on the description in **Ephesians 1:1-14**? Why or why not?
2. **He C.A.R.E.S.** How will you think or act differently as a result of what God has revealed in **Ephesians 1:1-14**?
3. **I C.A.R.E.** In what ways can you show genuine care to your family, friends, and other circle of influence this week?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Examine yourself today. Are you a true disciple of Christ based on the Bible and as per discussion today?

Are you following God in His mandate to make disciples? Are you being discipled and is intentional on your journey to become Christ-like?

Share to people in your pray-care-share list what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centred Canada and Philippines
- Repentance and salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honour and love God and make disciples
- Elders, pastors, leaders, and families
- Ministries and churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- CCF Edmonton building

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends