

## **A Done Deal**

Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:20

November 6, 2011

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

Illustration: our visit to the Hudson River bike trail. John and the architects...

A summary of the Holy Spirit in Ephesians –

Two key images and one key question...

Two images from Ephesians 1:13-14

**13** *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*

### **1 - Seal**

An ancient symbol of authenticity and ownership

### **2 - Deposit**

arrabon – this is like the first installment, or the earnest money. It's the "I'm serious about this deal, and to show my seriousness I am putting my money down." Don't sell to anyone else.

Together these two objects represent our ADOPTION (1:5), our union with Christ. Adoption, in Roman law (the backdrop of Paul's letter) assumed that adopted children enjoyed all the rights and privileges as biological children.

Adoption, too, represents an immense gain and a necessary loss.

The benefits of adoptions are forgiveness, reconciliation, liberty, fatherly care (or favor) and discipline.

*2 Corinthians 1:21-22*

*Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

*John 10:27-28*

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.*

### **3 - Do Not Grieve** – a summary statement of 25-32

**Ephesians 4:25** *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 “In your anger do not sin”[a]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.*

**29** *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Potential barriers to the life-giving flow of the Holy Spirit in our lives:

*sin, idolatry, comfort/security, lack of faith, emotional laziness, distraction...*

How can we, as a body, avoid grieving the Holy Spirit?

a-Upholding the Truth (v25)

b-Resisting Anger (v26)

-do not let the sun go down on your anger

c-Valuing Productivity (v28)

-work hard to contribute and give

d-Considering our Speech (v29)

e-Offering Forgiveness (vv31-32)

### **Conclusion**

Illustration: the girls and their dress-up clothes

Imagine, now, enjoying these things:

-the deep relief of purity and forgiveness

-the awe and wonder of worship

-the humbling significance of being used by the Spirit

-the astonishment of seeing the fruits of the Spirit in you?

*I Corinthians 2:9-10*

**9b** *“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” – the things God has prepared for those who love him—*

**10** *these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.*

## **Communion Intro**

Ephesians 2:1-10

**1** *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. **4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

## **Communion**

### **Prayer**

### **Benediction**

**16** *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, **18** may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

**20** *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*