

# Who Are We?

- Chosen for adoption.
- Redeemed out of slavery.
- Included in His gospel plan.
- Saved to do the good things God planned for us.



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“Connecting people to God and each other.”

1. How we live matters... (be holy)
2. How we love matters... (by our love)
3. How we embrace others matters...



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What drives us?

What's our purpose?

# Who Are We?

What are our goals?



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What drives us?

What's our purpose?

# Who Are We?

What are our goals?

**This is God's plan!**



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# Let's look at Paul...

- Persecuting the church.



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## Acts 7:51-8:3

**“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”**



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When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."



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At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.



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On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.



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# Let's look at Paul... (v1-6)

- Persecuting the church.
- Encountered Jesus.
- From church persecutor to church planter.
- Jewish Pharisee took the gospel to Gentiles.
- Put in prison for preaching the gospel.



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# Let's look at the gospel... (v7-12)

- **God planned it.**

*Ephesians 1:7-10*

*With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*



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# Let's look at the gospel... (v7-12)

- God planned it.
- Jesus preached it.

*Matthew 4:17*

*From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*



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# Let's look at the gospel... (v7-12)

- **God planned it.**
- **Jesus preached it.**
- **Paul lived it.**

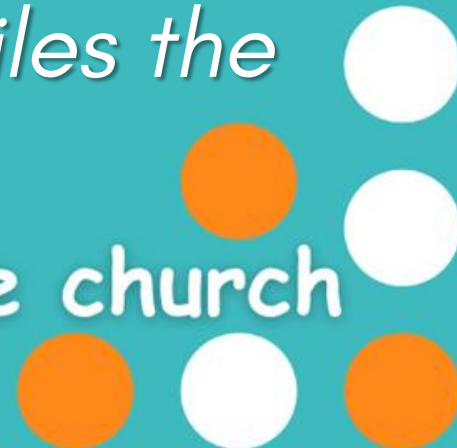
*I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.*

*Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ...*



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# Rubber hits the road...

1. The plan for unity is not man-made; it's predestined by God.



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3. The role of the church is to demonstrate the unifying gospel.



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# Rubber hits the road...

1. The plan for unity is not man-made; it's predestined by God.
2. The church that Jesus builds will never fall.
3. The role of the church is to demonstrate the unifying gospel.
4. The extent to which I surrender to the gospel is the extent to which I enjoy gospel unity.



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Pray that we'll be  
captivated by the gospel.



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# Who Are We?

1. A community that honours Jesus.
2. A community saved for serving Jesus.
3. A community that displays the unifying gospel.



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