

## ***“The Beloved”***

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Ephesians 1:1-14 (text v. 6)

Ephesians chapter one is of the most complete references to all the blessings we have in Christ (v. 3). Notice these 7 blessings listed in verses 4-14.

1. Blessing of His choice—He chose me (1:4).
2. Blessing of Adoption (1:5). I’m His son.
3. Blessing of Acceptance (1:6).
4. Blessing of Redemption (1:7).
5. Blessing of Forgiveness (v. 7)
6. Blessing of an Inheritance (1:11-12).
7. Blessing of being Sealed (1:13-14).

Karen Peck & New River sing a song simply titled, *“Ephesians Chapter One.”* It goes... [<https://youtu.be/Rs6JdHWekh0>]

In the middle of the battle, when all that really matters,  
Is there a place where I can find relief.  
I even start to wonder if the stress I’m under  
Is turning my joy into grief.  
I’ve been beat down, backed down, found myself on the ground  
Thought I would lose my mind.  
Then I open up the Bible and found I could rely on  
Ephesians chapter one!  
God says I’m blessed, I’m chosen, I’m adopted, I’m favored, redeemed  
Yeah, I’m forgiven.  
Makes me wanna sing I’m a child of the king,  
And now I’m really livin’!  
By the blood of the Lamb, I know who I am,  
God said it and it’s already done!  
If the devil comes in, I remind Him again  
Of Ephesians Chapter One. AMEN!

Who is *“the beloved?”* It is the Lord Jesus Christ!

**I. The AFFIRMATION of the name** (Mt. 3:16-17).

➡ This is what God says about Jesus—God said Christ is His "*beloved Son*." It doesn't matter what anyone else says about Jesus! God has spoken!

## II The AFFECTION in the name (Mt. 3:17).

➡ "*Beloved*" is one of the more blessed titles of the Lord Jesus.

➡ "*Beloved*" is a term of endearment and affection.

➡ "*Beloved*" is mentioned 42 times in the O.T. and 26 times in the Song of Solomon alone. Each time the phrase "*my beloved*" occurs in the Song of Solomon it is a reference to Solomon as a type of Christ—"*the beloved*."

- 1:16—*Behold, thou art fair, my beloved...*
- 2:10— *My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.*
- 2:16— *My beloved is mine, and I am his...*
- 5:2—...*it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me...* (Rev. 3:20).
- 5:10—*My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.*
- 5:16—*This is my beloved, and this is my friend...*
- 6:3—*I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine...*
- 7:10—*I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.*

God's love for His Son is a love beyond any human comprehension. Jesus is God's "*beloved Son*"—No love is so great. Jesus is "*the beloved*" One of all.

In view of God the Father's great love for His "*beloved Son*," makes the sacrifice of God in giving His Son to die for our sins at Calvary the greatest sacrifice ever made.

Also, the great love of God for His Son makes the magnitude of rejecting God's "*beloved Son*" that much more serious. To reject the One whom God loved above all will bring the eternal wrath of God upon the Christ rejecter.

## III. The ABIDING of the name.

- Twice this name is repeated (Mt. 17:1-5; 2 Pet. 1:17).

- The repetition of this name shows God's love for His Son is an abiding love.

**IV. The ACCEPTANCE in the name** (Eph. 1:6—*To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*).

➡ This is one of the beautiful statements in the Bible regarding a Christian's relationship with God.

A. The **CRAVING** for acceptance. Everyone wants to be accepted.

➡ Being socially accepted is based on how I am perceived in the eyes of others. If I want them to accept me I will seek to live the way they want me to live.

➡ Think of the lengths some people go to gain acceptance.

1. Some wear certain styles of clothes and fashions to gain someone's acceptance.
2. Others adopt peculiar hairstyles, or outlandish facial make-up.
3. They may change what they eat or where they live in an effort to fit in.
4. There are some tragic cases of people severely damaging their lives or committing crimes in an effort to be accepted.

➡ They do these things because they want to be accepted because what they do, rather than on who they are!

B. The **CERTAINTY** of acceptance—“...*he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*”

1. God's basis of my acceptance is not what *I do* (or don't do), but on *what Christ already did*—Not because of *who* I am, but because of *where* I am—I'm IN CHRIST.

2. It doesn't matter how you feel about yourself. Nothing can change God's acceptance of you.

- Relationships based on what you do (or don't do), are unstable. The way others accept you will change if you fail live up to their expectations.
- But nothing can change the fact of God accepting you, because it is not based on what you do! You are accepted

*“to the praise and glory of HIS GRACE!”* The same grace of God that saved you also settles your position in His eyes forever. We don’t need to act a certain way to be accepted by God—We ARE ALREADY accepted in Christ despite our failings and shortcomings.

3. *“In the Beloved,”* I am beloved (see John 17:22-23, 26). God sees me *“in the beloved!”* No angel is more beloved than I am in Christ.
  4. I’m accepted because Christ is accepted!
- C. The **CELEBRATION** for acceptance. Our acceptance is cause for PRAISE (v. 6). God has accepted you—Not because of anything good in you. He has accepted you because of His grace. He gets all the PRAISE!

H.A. Ironside tells about an assination attempt that was made on Queen Elizabeth I by a woman who hid in the Queen’s bedchamber. She planned to stab the Queen with a knife as soon as the opportunity presented itself. However, the Queen’s guards discovered this woman hiding and brought her before the queen.

She fell on her knees before the queen and pleaded for the Queen to show her grace. The Queen said, “If I show you grace, what promise will you make that you will not do this again?” The woman then looked up and answered, “Grace that has conditions... grace that is fettered by precautions, is no grace at all.”

Queen Elizabeth caught it and she said: “You are right. I pardon you by my grace.” The woman was set free and later she became most faithful and devoted servant in the Queen’s court.

That’s what God’s done for you when He accepted you *“in the beloved.”*

**SUMMATION:** The question is: Are you *“in the beloved”*—Are you in Christ? No one is accepted until they are IN CHRIST.

Knowing we have been accepted by God’s grace **helps us change how we look at others**. Instead of demanding others measure up to your expectations and standards, grant them the same grace by which God has accepted you. If God has accepted them as they are, you should accept them as they are, and not according to what you want them to be!

- Offering your spouse...your children...your friends the same kind of acceptance you have in Christ builds strong and lasting relationships.
- Do you demand for people "jump through hoops" to make you happy?
- Do you remember every failure and bring it up over and over again?  
Do you hold past offenses over people's heads?

If so, resolve to show grace and true acceptance toward others. It will transform your life and your relationships.