

Predestination

We have studied our Position in Christ.

We have studied being Chosen by God or the doctrine of Election.

We now come to the confusing doctrine of Predestination.

We are in the longest sentence of the Bible (verses 3-14). We have noted God's relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the Father of His Son Jesus Christ. Here we noted the Deity of Jesus Christ. We are now looking at God's relationship with believers.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God even Father of the Lord of us Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

just as. just as He has blessed us in grace.

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, Election.

That. in order that.

we. Everyone who believes in Jesus.

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would be. *Present active infinitive* indicating this is God's purpose – *to forever be.*

holy. adjective *agios.*

that we forever keep on being holy

1. This Greek word occurs some six times in Ephesians.

1:4 that we would be holy

1:13 Holy Spirit—yes this is the same word used to describe what God makes us to be for all eternity.

2:21 holy temple

3:5 holy apostles

4:30 Holy Spirit

5:27 His bride (the church) would be holy and blameless

2. Greek definition: holy, set apart, sanctified, consecrated, saint, perfect, pure, upright, worthy of God.

Let's stop right here! Think about this for a moment!

This is what you are right now and you will always be this, no matter how carnal you may live here in the flesh, no matter how you may fail or fall into some sin or sin pattern. You cannot lose being holy, in Christ. Please remember this! Never forget it. When you are in stress, or in anxiety, or depressed, sit down, read this over and over. Read these passages. Go into prayer and believe what you are before God. You are holy, pure, set apart from the world to God. You may look at yourself today, in your sins or sin pattern, and you

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think you are unworthy. Oh, people, you were unworthy when God made you pure, or holy. You did nothing to earn it and you can do nothing to lose it. Go over the Faithfulness of God, not your unfaithfulness but God's faithfulness. Then, right there, in your sad condition, give our heavenly Father thanks that you are this. Get up, stay in the Holy Spirit by faith and move on...and don't you dare let anyone cause you to doubt what God has done. People, our battle is a battle of faith. Faith is the battle. Faith is the cure to SAD (Stress-Anxiety-Depression) in your life. Do you believe what God has done or not? Most people when in SAD, do not want to just trust God, and trust all that God has already done to you, for you. It is a shame that so many Christians today, are hooked on drugs, alcohol, porno, when all they have to do is simply, truly trust all that God has done for them and walk by faith in Holy Spirit.

3. All three members of the Godhead are holy. The same word used to describe you as holy is the same word used to describe members of the Godhead. God is holy – John 17:11; 1 Peter 1:15; Revelation 4:8 and 6:10. Jesus Christ is holy. Luke 1:35; 4:34; and John 6:69; the Spirit is holy Matthew 1:18; Luke 3:22; John 14:26 and Acts 2:4.
4. And in the Church Age, all who have simply believed in Jesus as their Savior are declared in the Word of God as 'holy' using the same Greek word used to describe members of the Godhead as holy, as in our passage in Ephesians 1: 4. Also note:

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, (everyone who has believed in Jesus as their Savior, male or female) **partakers of a heavenly**

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**calling, (we saw this in Ephesians 1:3-4)
consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of
our confession.**

5. Everyone who believes in Jesus as their Christ, is made holy or sanctified by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

**Hebrews 10:10 By this will we have been
sanctified through the offering of the body of
Jesus Christ once for all.**

The Hebrew word translated *sanctified* is the verb of the adjective we have been seeing over and over. We could translate this “By this will we have been made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus once for all.” Or we can translate the adjective *sanctified* instead of *holy*.

6. If you have believed in Jesus as your Christ, you are holy by God putting you *in Christ*. This is part of what we studied of your position in Christ. By being in Christ you are holy.

**1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which
is at Corinth, to those who have been
sanctified in Christ Jesus, (made holy in Christ
Jesus) saints (holy ones) by calling, with all
who in every place call on the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:**

As it says in Unger’s Bible Dictionary: “The NT refutes the idea of a special class of saints. Although it is true that in *experience* some

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believers are more ‘holy’ than others, yet in their position before God, all believers are sanctified, i.e. saints by virtue of what they are in Christ.”

7. We have seen that we should give thanks *-daily-* that God made us holy.

Col. 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

In the margin of the NASV it says that *saints* might be translated *holy ones*.

8. This also helps the confusion on ‘sanctification.’ Believer, you are ‘sanctified’ before God, the moment you believe in Jesus as your Christ. Experientially, your life here on earth is sanctified when you are in the Holy Spirit by faith. This is called ‘experiential sanctification’ in contrast to ‘positional sanctification.’

Ok, people, here is the question: do you believe the Word of God? Do you believe it when it says you are holy in Christ? If you do, then rest in that fact when you are heavy laden. Don’t start doubting it. It is so disheartening how many believers start doubting what they once believed when in suffering or sin or tribulation. Please, do not do that. Rest your faith in who you are in Christ, in who God made you to be when you believed in Jesus Christ. God does not take it away from you, you are holy before Him, so rest in that fact and give Him thanks.

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Ephesians 1:4 just as He (God the Father) chose us (at the point of faith in His Son for salvation) in Him (His Son, Jesus Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy

1. At the point of faith in Jesus Christ, God our Father made every believer to be just like His Son, Jesus Christ, who is always Holy. Therefore, God made everyone of us Holy.
2. He makes every believer to be like His Son, Jesus Christ.
3. When Jesus Christ was in heaven in eternity past, He was absolute perfection or holy. While He walked on earth, He was absolute perfection or holy. When Jesus Christ returned to heaven after His Resurrection as the God-man, He was absolute perfection or holy in both His deity and His humanity. So there never was a time, whether as deity or humanity that He was not perfectly holy.
4. However, there never was a time when we were perfect, or holy. And there was, is, no way we can make ourselves holy. We are forever stuck in imperfection, unholy creatures.
5. But, in His love for His Son, and His grace toward us, God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, made us Holy. You may not look holy, act holy, smell holy, think holy but before God every believer, no matter how carnal they may become while on earth, we are perfectly holy before God. You cannot lose your sanctification before God.

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6. While being ‘holy’ is our eternal status before God, “saint” is merely a title to show that no matter how bad you are, no matter how you fail, no matter how evil you become, or no matter how good you appear, no matter how self-righteous you become or no matter how righteous you are in the Holy Spirit you are a saint, you are set apart. You cannot lose your salvation. You will never stand at the Great White Throne Judgment. Put it another way that may help some of you, God will never lose track of you. He has you covered by His Son. And you are going to spend all eternity with God the Father and His Son. In fact, you will have a body just like the resurrected body of Jesus Christ, minus the scars.

and blameless before Him

Oh, you will like this, the word **and** is the ascensive use of the conjunction *kai*. We saw how it was translated in Ephesians 1:3 - **blessed be the God even Father of the Lord of us Jesus Christ**. Here the ascensive use should be translated **even unblemished or blameless—even without blame**.

This is rather emphatic today with all that is going on in D.C. with the Democrats *hunting* for something upon which to impeach the President. They don’t have anything. And time after time they have failed to find *blame* that is impeachable. And the same thing is going on in Israel with Netanyahu’s enemies hunting for blame with him. Now, what about you and me? The Greek word is made up of the privative alpha meaning without, plus the noun *momos* meaning spot or blemish (in a moral or sinful understanding). Question: do you have a ‘spot’ or ‘blemish’ of sin on or in you? Of course, we all do! But, and here is the really wonderful

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point of our being ‘in Christ.’ By our position, in Christ, before God we are like Him and Jesus Christ is without spot or blemish, therefore we are without spot or blemish.

1. This word, ‘without spot or blemish’ describes how every born again believer stands before God, by virtue of our being In Him Ephesians 1:4.
2. After the Rapture, Jesus Christ will present His bride (all Church Age believers) to God the Father, as *holy and blameless*.

Ephesians 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless

Also,

Colossians 1:22. yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

3. Jesus Christ has always been without blemish.

Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, (His Spiritual death on the cross) who through the eternal Spirit (God the Holy Spirit) offered Himself without blemish to God,

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**cleanse your conscience from dead works to
serve the living God?**

Therefore, when we are placed or baptized *in Christ* we share this with Him, that is we are now without blemish, in our position in Christ. See also 1 Peter 1:19.

4. While this is our status in Christ, before God, this is how we should strive to live our lives.

**Philippians 2:14 Do all things without
grumbling or disputing;**

**Philippians 2:15 so that you will prove
yourselves to be blameless and innocent,
(before man) children of God above reproach
in the midst of a crooked and perverse
generation, among whom you appear as lights
in the world, (and the only way we can do this is
by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, so you
better know how to be filled or empowered by the
Holy Spirit. By faith through Grace!)**

5. This is how Jesus Christ will present us before God the Father.

**Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you
from stumbling, and to make you stand in the
presence of His glory blameless with great
joy,**

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Jude 1:25 to the only God our Savior, (Jesus Christ is both God and man in one person) through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

6. Because you are going to be in Christ, and have a resurrected body exactly like His, you will be blameless. What you are or were while here on earth means nothing. The point is you are in the Plan of God and it does not depend on you. It does not depend on you being good, it does not depend on you not sinning...being blameless simple does not depend on you. You are a saint. You cannot change that. From the moment you believed in Jesus as your Christ, you became a saint and that will never change.

That you will be holy and blameless before Him, referring to God the Father. This means in the presence of and it refers to after the rapture.

Ephesians 1:4 ...In love

Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

In love

As we move into a discussion on predestination, remember this, if nothing else. Predestination and love go together! This will take care of the covenanters.

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The word for love is *agape* and it refers to Divine Love. Remember there are three categories of love. There is Divine Love which of course comes from the members of the Godhead. Then there is human love which comes from humans and depends on the integrity of each individual. Then there is Spiritual love which comes from the Holy Spirit, only through a born again believer who is walking by faith in the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace....

The next phrase is the *aorist participle* having predestinated. In the Greek, this is a compound verb with the prefix *pro* – before plus the verb *to determine*, “To determine or decree beforehand.” This word has caused a great deal of confusion and been the cause of a lot of false teaching.

To prevent error in our understanding of the Biblical word *having predestinated* we are going to look at three other vital doctrines that directly impact how we understand predestination. They are the doctrines of Divine Love, Divine Sovereignty and the doctrine of Divine Decrees. To be certain we will not exhaust in any measure the study of these three doctrines but note them as to their importance in understanding predestination.

Divine Love

1. We must start with Divine Love. Why? Because it is His love that motivated Him to predestination.
2. Start right off with the point. To those who believe that unbelievers are predestined by God, believe they are loved by God. That is fine for them. But what about those who are not

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predestined to believe in Jesus, what happen to the love of God for them? So, it is vital that we grasp the Love of God.

3. The Love of God does not violate the perfect Righteousness of God. In other words, God does not set His Righteousness aside to satisfy some desire from His love.
4. The Love of God does not violate the Fairness of God. He is not partial to some with the rejection of others without the satisfaction of His Righteousness.
5. Can we define Divine Love? The simple answer is no. The Bible defines faith in Hebrews 11:1 but the Bible does not define Love. Divine Love defies defining. To define love would be like trying to define God. The definition limits God. And so, with a definition of Love. To define love is to confine love.

But what the Bible does do is to define love by describing love. It is much like gravity, we define gravity by describing gravity: *the force that attracts a body toward the center of the earth*. And so, it is with defining Divine Love. It is a spiritual force that attracts created beings toward God Himself.

6. Not only does the Bible declare that God is love (1 John 4:8 and 16) but it also declares that God is Spirit (John 4:24). Therefore, His love is a Spiritual force that attracts man and angels to Him. But Scripture also declares that God is light. Therefore, His love is a light that allows those who see His love to see who and what God is and therefore attracted to Him out of the darkness of our existence.

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7. Understanding Divine Love as a Spiritual force that attracts us to God is seen in

Jeremiah 31:3 I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with or by lovingkindness.

But what about those who refuse to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior? Question: how many people are there in this world who refuse and reject the love of someone else. Like those children who reject the love of their mother and father? Or those who reject the true love of another and marry the wrong person? But those who will see the light are drawn to the light of God's love.

8. In truly grasping the Love of God, one must also grasp all the attributes of God. In other words, God is Good, therefore His love is a manifestation of His Goodness. God is Omnipresent, therefore His love is everywhere present, etc. So, if you truly desire to grasp the love of God, you must spend time in His Word on all His attributes. A study of 1 Corinthians 13 which describes love, will give you some understanding of the Love of God. His love is Longsuffering, His love is Kind, His love is not Jealous nor boastful, His love does not consider when wronged, etc. These are 16 descriptions of love, His love is Kind, not you. When the Holy Spirit pours His love in you, you are not these 16 impacts, they describe the Love of God.
9. And most dramatic for us is that His love is manifested toward those least deserving of it.

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John 3:16 For in this manner, loved, The God, the world, that The Son, the only begotten, He gave that –in order that whoever believes in Him shall not parish but have everlasting life.

From this we learn one of the most important lessons about love. Being benefited by love is the issue for mankind. For all eternity, those who will be in the lake of fire are loved by God, but they refused to be benefited by His love. When you say, *I love someone*, what do you mean? Are they benefited by your love? And if so, how are they benefited by your love? When God declares that He loves the world—all unbelievers—it does not mean that He just arbitrarily saves everyone. It means that His love motivates Him to find a way to express that love, and complete the desire of His love, which is to spend all eternity with them. God expressed His love and His desire by offering His own Son up on the cross to be their Savior. But, to be benefited by His love, each individual must make a faith decision to believe in Jesus as his personal Savior.

10. Now in our study of predestination, Ephesians 1:4-5 declares that **in love He predestined us**. We must correctly understand what predestination is to grasp the demonstration of His love toward us.

But before we can understand predestination we must grasp the Sovereignty of God.