

# Identity -vs- WEdenity

Ephesians 1:4-6  
Dr. Dennis Daniels

The heavenly realms are the invisible realities of our life now.

## THE FATHER

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he 1 chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love 2 He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with His pleasure and will to the praise and glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One He loves.*

## JESUS

*In Him 3 we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And 4 He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. 5 in him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. And you also were 6 included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.*

## HOLY SPIRIT

*Having believed, you were 7 marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of His glory.” Eph. 1:4-14 (NIV)*

*“For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.” Eph. 1:4 (NIV)*

*“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matt. 11:28 (niv)*

*“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name.” John 15:16 (NIV)*

*“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never drive away.” John 6:37 (NIV)*

*“... Chosen before the foundation...”*

*“... to be holy and blameless in His sight...”*

“Chosen” and “Predestined”

The question is, how can we be “chosen” and still have the responsibility to choose? If my life is “predestined” do I ever really make any decisions?

Does man have a free will? Yes

Does God have absolute control? Yes

“let God be wiser than man” J. I Packer

“The good news is offered to us, but unless we respond, we will never obtain the benefit of it. But if we do respond, if we come to Christ, if we believe in Him, then we discover the great fact that it was God who began the process; it was He who chose us, and we have been drawn to Him by His Spirit at work in our spirit.”

Ray Steadman

## Blessing #1

Your salvation is not an afterthought... it is a part of God’s eternal thoughts.

What did He choose?

For us to be Holy and Blameless!

Holy: “separate and distinct”

Blameless: “a sacrifice fit to offer to God”

*“In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with His pleasure and will – to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.” Eph. 1:5-6 (NIV)*

*“In accordance with His pleasure and will...”*

*“To the praise of His glorious grace...”*

Roman Adoptions

Patria potestas – the father had absolute power over the children

A child could not possess anything

Adopted children had all the rights of adoption in the new family

Adopted children lost all rights in the old family

What family did we leave? Adams

What family did we join? God’s

An adoption shouts the truth: “I am Wanted”

## **Blessing #2**

God has adopted me into His Family!

The reason for the adoption: God’s pleasure and will.

The result of the adoption:

Glory to God’s grace

The most important impact of our adoption is that  
eternity will echo with the praise

**“God is a giving God.”**