

In Christ Jesus
Ephesians 1:1-2

Paul the apostle

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an **apostle** of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

Apostle (apostolos): a specially called messenger of Jesus

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle **of Christ Jesus** by the will of God,

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

Criteria to be an apostle

All apostles were men

Eyewitness of the resurrected Christ - Acts 1:21-22, 1 Corinthians 1:9

Directly called by God - Mark 3:13-19, Acts 9:6

Given divine revelation to write in the books of NT - 2 Peter 1:16

Ability to work true signs of an apostle (miracles, healings, etc.) - Acts 5:12

by the will of God

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus **by the will of God**,

Will (thelēma): desire, wish

Will (boulema): command, authoritative decree

not to be conceived as a demand, but as an expression or inclination of pleasure towards that which is liked, that which pleases and creates joy. When it denotes God’s will, it signifies His gracious disposition toward something. Used to designate what God Himself does of His own good pleasure.

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [*The complete word study dictionary: New Testament*](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

Acts 9:3–6 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

Acts 26:9–11 “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

1 Timothy 1:13–14 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 1:15–16 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ **was pleased** to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

Was pleased (eudokeō): be well pleased with

You the saint

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the **saints** who are in Ephesus, and are **faithful in Christ Jesus**:

Saints

faithful

in Christ Jesus

the basic irreducible minimum of what constitutes a Christian.

Lloyd-Jones, D. M. (1978). [*God's Ultimate Purpose: an Exposition of Ephesians 1*](#) (p. 24). Banner of Truth Trust.

The first irreducible minimum of a Christian is that of being a **saint**

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the **saints** who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Saints (hagios): holy ones, set apart, consecrated

Sperate from the world

Galatians 1:3–5 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The question is, are we truly separated as persons, are we essentially different from the world? This not only means that we are set apart in an outward sense, it means that we are set apart because we are cleansed inwardly. That is the real meaning of the word 'saint.'

Lloyd-Jones, D. M. (1978). [*God's Ultimate Purpose: an Exposition of Ephesians 1*](#) (p. 26). Banner of Truth Trust.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Titus 2:11–12 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

Colossians 1:10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Ephesians 4:17–18 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

James 1:27.... to keep oneself unstained from the world.

The second irreducible of a Christian is **faithfulness**

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and **are faithful** in Christ Jesus:

Faithful (pistos): one who trusts in, belief that trusts

A Christian is one who believes certain specific truths; and the essence of his belief centres on the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian, the saint, is 'full of faith'. In whom, in what? Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! He believes that Jesus of Nazareth was the only begotten Son of God. He is full of faith in the Incarnation, he believes that the Eternal 'Word was made flesh and dwelt among us', that the Eternal Son came in human nature into this world; he believes in the Virgin Birth, and that Jesus manifested that He was the Son of God by His miracles.

Lloyd-Jones, D. M. (1978). [God's Ultimate Purpose: an Exposition of Ephesians 1](#) (pp.

Jude 3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to **contend for the faith that**

The third irreducible of a Christian is that they are **in Christ**

If you are in Christ Jesus it is because God finds pleasure in you. He delights in you.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us **in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love** ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷**In him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth **in Christ** ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things **in him**, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹**In him** we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope **in Christ** might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³**In him** you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed **in him**, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 2:1-10 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich **in mercy**, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when

we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us **in Christ Jesus**. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Grace and peace

Ephesians 1:2 **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace (charis): favorable attitude toward someone

Peace (eirēnē): favorable circumstances resulting in peace and tranquility.

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, being rich **in mercy**, because of the **great love with which he loved us**, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:6-7 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters,

nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11 And such were some of you.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.