

Sermon Title: **“HOLY & BLAMELESS”**

Ephesians 1:1-14

- It's believed that historically Ephesus boasted of OVER 50 different temples to different “gods”
 - Ephesus was hostile toward believers in Jesus Christ
- In Greek the phrase “in love” can connect to 1 of 3 verbs
 - God choosing us was rooted & motivated in love
 - Believers being found Holy & Blameless is forever linked to God's love
 - & again, God determined beforehand (He predestined us) for NO other reason than God so loved us
- “Holy” = (literally means “Set Apart”) it means morally pure; upright; above reproach; blameless in heart & life
 - ALL believers are Holy because of what Christ did for them (our holiness is “imputed,” God places on us, Christ's holiness)
 - “Imputed” is actually a legal term & it means a transaction has taken place
 - Jesus took on our sin, so that we would be presented sinless!
- “Blameless” = without blemish or spot; guiltless; just; uncondemned; presented as NOT able to be charged in court
 - There are NO charges (past, present, or future) that will stick to a believer because of Jesus' finished work
- In Christ our standing is secure, we presently live with the knowledge that we're Holy & Blameless before God
 - Jesus' shed blood covers my account & NOTHING sticks to me (my sins have already been paid in full)
 - Maybe as you process this truth you're struggling to live in that reality because you feel like you fail more than you succeed
 - We struggle because we stop at the chapter break (we DON'T live life with the life-altering reality of Romans 8:1)
 - We struggle because we put limits on God's grace
 - (when we sin it muddies our fellowship with God, our relationship STILL exists)
 - When we revert to a sinful act, we need to be quick to confess & get right with God (DON'T live with strained fellowship)
- Our sins which we can struggle with have been dealt with. Today, (believers) we DON'T live defeated by Sin
 - In Christ, when we one day stand before God, we will be found guiltless, uncondemned, without charge, morally pure, & blameless in heart & life