SERMON STUDY GUIDE | November 15, 2026

EPHESIANS

SAINTS & FAITHFUL

Based on the message by Chad Everett

"We don't live holy consecrated lives so that we can become saints. We live holy consecrated lives because we are saints."

— Chad Everett

THE ROADS CHURCH

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OVERVIEW

Are you living from your identity in Christ, or are you still trying to earn what Jesus has already made available to you? And when life becomes difficult, will you remain faithful to the end?

In Ephesians 1:1, Paul addresses the Church as “saints” and “faithful in Christ Jesus.” These two descriptions reveal foundational truths about our relationship with God. Being a saint speaks to our identity in Christ, while being faithful speaks to our endurance and steadfast devotion to Him.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are born again, made new, and brought into the family of God. Our identity as saints is not something we earn through good behavior, religious performance, or personal accomplishments. We live holy and consecrated lives because we belong to Him, not to earn His acceptance.

Yet following Jesus involves more than understanding who we are. Faithfulness requires endurance. Our relationship with Christ is not meant to be a temporary commitment based on circumstances, emotions, or spiritual highs. We are called to remain steadfast, hold fast to our confidence in Him, and continue choosing Jesus through every season of life.

This study challenges us to examine whether we truly see ourselves through our new identity in Christ, how we respond when we fall short, and whether we are remaining faithful when life becomes difficult. Rather than allowing guilt, condemnation, fear, or discouragement to determine our response, we can return to Jesus, receive His grace, and continue walking in loving devotion to Him.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Read → Respond → Reflect

Read each Scripture passage carefully before answering the Respond questions. Keep your Bible open and allow Scripture itself to provide the answers.

Then use the Reflect questions to examine how your understanding of your identity in Christ influences your thoughts, choices, relationships, and daily walk with Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where performance-based thinking, guilt, condemnation, or discouragement may be keeping you from living according to who you are in Him.

As you work through the final sections, consider where your faithfulness is being challenged. Identify practical ways to remain steadfast, respond to God's correction, and continue choosing Jesus through every circumstance.

This guide is designed for individual study, family discipleship, and Roads Groups.

Access previous sermon study guides:

https://theroads.church/sermon-study-guide/links-sermon-study-guides/

KEY WORDS & DEFINITIONS

- **Saints — hagiŏs:** Holy, consecrated; people who belong to God through Jesus Christ.
- **Chief — prōtŏs:** Foremost, ranking above others, first of former.
- **Faithful — pistŏs:** Trustworthy, steadfast affection or allegiance.
- **Servants — hupērĕtēs:** To row; under-oarsman, someone subject to the authority or control of another.
- **Stewards — ŏikŏnŏmŏs:** One who manages or administrates a household.
- **Required — zētĕō:** To seek, ask earnestly for, to demand; to be or become that which is looked for.

SECTION 1 — OUR IDENTITY AS SAINTS IS FOUND IN CHRIST, NOT OUR WORKS

Focus

Paul addresses believers as saints, identifying those who belong to God through Jesus Christ. Being a saint is not a status achieved through religious accomplishments or good behavior. Scripture teaches that we become children of God through receiving Jesus, believing in His name, and being born again. Our relationship with God begins through faith in Christ, not through our own efforts or merit.

Read

Ephesians 1:1; John 1:12–13; John 3:3–7; Galatians 3:26

Respond

1. According to Ephesians 1:1, how does Paul identify the people to whom he is writing?
2. In John 1:12–13, who receives the right to become children of God, and how are they born?
3. According to John 3:3–7, what does Jesus tell Nicodemus is necessary to see and enter the Kingdom of God?
4. What distinction does Jesus make between being born of the flesh and being born of the Spirit?
5. According to Galatians 3:26, how do we become sons of God?

Reflect

1. **Am I basing my relationship with God on faith in Jesus or my own performance?** When I evaluate my standing with God, do I look to what Jesus has accomplished or to how well I have behaved, served, prayed, or attended church? What does my answer reveal about where I have placed my confidence?

2. **Do I truly see myself as someone who belongs to God?** When I think about being a saint, do I see it as an identity Jesus has made possible through faith, or as a spiritual status I must work to achieve? How does that understanding influence the way I approach God?
3. **Am I confusing religious activity with a genuine relationship with Jesus?** Is there evidence of being born again and living in relationship with Him, or am I relying on church attendance, familiarity with Scripture, or good deeds as assurance that I belong to God?

Further Scripture Reading

Romans 3:21–22

SECTION 2 — WE LIVE HOLY BECAUSE WE ARE SAINTS, NOT TO BECOME SAINTS

Focus

Our obedience and consecration flow from our relationship with Jesus rather than becoming the means of earning that relationship. God's kindness, love, and mercy bring salvation and transformation. We do not live holy lives to persuade God to accept us. We live in devotion to Him because, through faith in Christ, we already belong to Him. Good works are the response to His grace, not the foundation of our salvation.

Read

Titus 3:3–8; Galatians 3:22, 26; Romans 3:21–22

Respond

1. According to Titus 3:3, how does Paul describe the former condition of believers?
2. In Titus 3:4–5, what appeared toward humanity, and on what basis did God save us?
3. According to Titus 3:5–7, what work of the Holy Spirit and what results of God's grace are described?
4. What do Galatians 3:22, 26 and Romans 3:21–22 identify as the means by which God's promise, sonship, and righteousness are received?
5. According to Titus 3:8, what should those who have believed in God be careful to maintain?

Reflect

1. **Am I obeying God out of loving devotion or trying to earn His affection?** When I pray, serve, give, or pursue holiness, is my motivation a genuine love for Jesus, or am I trying to make myself acceptable to Him? Where has obedience become a performance rather than an expression of relationship?
2. **Do I allow my behavior to determine whether I believe God welcomes me?** When I make a mistake, neglect something important, or fail to obey, do I assume God has withdrawn His affection? How does that response compare with the kindness, love, and mercy revealed in Titus 3?

3. **Does my life demonstrate devotion to the One who saved me?** If holiness and good works flow from belonging to Jesus, where am I excusing choices or habits that do not reflect that relationship? What needs to change, not to earn His love, but because I love Him?

Further Scripture Reading

John 1:12–13

SECTION 3 — FROM SINNER TO SAINT: EMBRACE YOUR NEW IDENTITY

Focus

Jesus came into the world to save sinners, bringing transformation rather than leaving people in their former condition. Paul describes the lives believers once lived and the mercy of God that brought salvation and renewal. Although saints can still make sinful choices, those choices do not define their identity in Christ. How we see ourselves influences how we live, respond to temptation, and embrace the privileges and responsibilities of belonging to God's family.

Read

1 Timothy 1:15; Titus 3:3–8; Ephesians 1:1

Respond

1. According to 1 Timothy 1:15, what did Jesus come into the world to do, and how does Paul describe himself in relation to sinners?
2. In Titus 3:3, why is Paul's use of the words “were also once” significant when describing the former condition of believers?
3. Compare Titus 3:3 with Titus 3:5–7. What specific changes does Paul describe between the former condition of believers and what God has accomplished through salvation?
4. In Titus 3:7, Paul describes believers as heirs according to the hope of eternal life. How does this deepen our understanding of what it means to belong to God's family?
5. Considering Ephesians 1:1 and Titus 3:3–8 together, what distinction does Scripture make between a believer's identity and the behavior that should flow from that identity?

Reflect

1. **Am I identifying myself by who I was or by who I am in Christ?** Do I continue defining myself by past sins, failures, addictions, or destructive patterns rather than embracing the new identity Jesus has given me? Where am I allowing my past to speak louder than God's Word?
2. **Does my understanding of my identity influence the choices I make?** When temptation comes, do I approach it believing that sin is simply who I am, or do I recognize that I belong to Jesus and can choose to live according to that relationship? What recurring thought or behavior needs to come into agreement with my identity in Christ?

3. **When I fall short, do I run to Jesus or retreat into condemnation?** Do I hide, justify my behavior, blame someone else, or distance myself from God? What would it look like to acknowledge my wrongdoing, repent, and return to Him as a son or daughter who belongs to His family?

Further Scripture Reading

John 3:3–7

SECTION 4 — FAITHFULNESS REQUIRES ENDURANCE TO THE END

Focus

Paul addresses believers not only as saints but also as faithful in Christ Jesus. Faithfulness involves trustworthy, steadfast allegiance and loving devotion to God. Scripture calls believers to remain faithful throughout their lives, not merely during moments of spiritual excitement or temporary commitment. Endurance means continuing to choose Jesus through opposition, difficulties, and changing circumstances, holding fast to our relationship with Him until the end.

Read

Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 4:1–2; Matthew 10:22; Matthew 24:13–14; 2 Timothy 4:7

Respond

1. In Ephesians 1:1, what description does Paul use alongside saints to identify those receiving his letter?
2. According to 1 Corinthians 4:1–2, how should servants of Christ be regarded, and what is required of stewards?
3. What does Jesus say about enduring to the end in Matthew 10:22 and Matthew 24:13?
4. According to Matthew 24:14, what will happen before the end comes?
5. In 2 Timothy 4:7, what three statements does Paul make about his faith and the course of his life?

Reflect

1. **Is my commitment to Jesus dependent on my circumstances?** Am I faithful only when life is going well, prayers are being answered, or I feel spiritually encouraged? Where have disappointment, difficulty, or unmet expectations caused my devotion to weaken?
2. **Am I living for a moment of spiritual excitement or a lifetime of faithfulness?** Do I rely on past encounters, decisions, or spiritual experiences while neglecting my present relationship with Jesus? What does my daily life reveal about my commitment to remain faithful over the long haul?
3. **Can I be trusted with what God has entrusted to me?** As a steward of what belongs to Him, am I demonstrating faithfulness in my responsibilities, relationships, service, and obedience? Where have I become inconsistent, distracted, or careless with something God has placed in my hands?

Further Scripture Reading

Mark 13:13; Matthew 25:14–30

SECTION 5 — HOLD FAST TO YOUR FAITH AND DON'T GIVE UP

Focus

Following Jesus requires us to hold fast to our confidence in Him, especially when life becomes difficult. Hebrews warns believers against unbelief, the deceitfulness of sin, and departing from the living God. Yet Scripture also calls us to encourage one another and remain steadfast to the end. When we stumble or grow weary, we must not abandon our relationship with Jesus. We can repent, return to Him, and renew our commitment to follow His ways rather than our own.

Read

Hebrews 3:6, 12–14; Titus 3:4–8; 2 Timothy 4:7

Respond

1. According to Hebrews 3:6, what are believers instructed to hold fast, and for how long?
2. What warning does Hebrews 3:12 give concerning unbelief and departing from the living God?
3. According to Hebrews 3:13, what are believers instructed to do for one another, and what danger does this help guard against?
4. In Hebrews 3:14, what condition is connected to being partakers of Christ?
5. What does Titus 3:4–8 reveal about God's mercy, renewal, and the response of those who have believed in Him?

Reflect

1. **Where am I struggling to hold fast to my faith?** Is there a situation, disappointment, relationship, or ongoing battle that has weakened my confidence in Jesus? Have I begun entertaining thoughts of quitting, withdrawing, or compromising? What would it mean for me to regrip and remain steadfast rather than give up?
2. **Am I responding to God's correction or resisting His invitation to change?** When the Holy Spirit reveals an attitude, reaction, or behavior that does not align with Jesus, do I repent and choose His way, or do I justify myself and hold onto my own? What specific situation in my life requires me to stop defending my actions and respond to Him?
3. **Am I helping others endure, or am I allowing discouragement to isolate me?** Hebrews instructs believers to exhort one another daily. Who in my life needs encouragement to remain faithful? Am I intentionally strengthening others in their walk with Jesus, and am I willing to receive encouragement and correction when my own confidence begins to slip?

Further Scripture Reading

Matthew 10:22; 1 Corinthians 4:1–2

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

“We don't live holy consecrated lives so that we can become saints. We live holy consecrated lives because we are saints.” — Chad Everett

Your identity in Christ is not something you must earn through religious performance or personal accomplishments. Through faith in Jesus, you belong to God. Allow that truth to shape how you see yourself, how you live, and how you respond when you fall short. Rather than running from Him in shame or condemnation, repent and return to the Father who has welcomed you into His family.

As you go into this week, examine where your confidence or devotion may be weakening. Don't allow difficulty, disappointment, or failure to convince you to give up. Hold fast to Jesus, encourage others to remain faithful, and continue choosing His ways over your own. You are called to live as a saint and remain faithful to the end.