

You Belong. Be Rooted in Christ's Love.

Keeping a strong faith can be hard when life's circumstances are difficult. It's easy to second guess what we know to be true when everything around us seems to challenge or oppose that truth. The Ephesian Christians knew firsthand how it felt to question whether or not God's promises really extended to them and whether or not they were really part of God's plan. In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul reminds the believers of God's original plan for inclusion and affirms their identity in Christ and their belonging to God's family. Join *Groundwork* as we study Ephesians 3 to receive the Apostle Paul's assurance that we belong in God's family, that his promises are, indeed, for us, and to be blessed by his prayer for the Holy Spirit to root us in Christ's love.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Have you ever experienced a time in your life when you didn't feel like you belonged? Describe the emotions you experienced and the effect that experience had on your life.
- What do you think it means to "be rooted and established in love" ([Ephesians 3:17](#))?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [You Belong. Be Rooted in Christ's Love.](#)

READ [Ephesians 3](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- What damage have you seen the sin of superiority do—in your personal life? in society?
- In segment 1, host Darrell Delaney discusses a few stories in scripture that demonstrate how the Israelites "missed the mystery," of God's intentions to include everyone in one humanity even though his intentions were present already in Genesis. Do you think the church today understands or misses the mystery? What evidence would you cite to support your opinion?
- The Apostle Paul talks about his special calling in [Ephesians 3:8-9](#) and hosts Scott Hozzee and Darrell Delaney discuss his humility, noting that "in his own soul he thinks he is just being honest." Whether humble or honest, do you think Paul's past experience as a devout Pharisee with a dramatic conversion story uniquely qualified him to bring the gospel to the Gentiles? Why? What about your life experiences uniquely qualifies you to do kingdom work where you are?
- In segment 3, Darrell identifies three major difficulties that impact whole communities and even whole countries: pandemic, political tensions, and racial tensions. In what ways have you personally been affected by these issues? Are there other difficulties in your life? What are you doing to root yourself in the love of Christ as you endure these difficulties? What one thing might you add or change in an effort to strengthen or deepen your roots in the love of Christ?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Acts 15:1-35](#), [Genesis 12:1-3](#), [Isaiah 49:6](#), [Acts 2](#), [Revelation 7:9-17](#), [Galatians 3:23-29](#), [Philippians 3:1-14](#)

CONCLUSION

Reread the Apostle Paul's prayer in [Ephesians 3:14-19](#). Which particular line or phrase resonates with you right now—for yourself? For someone else? Why? Talk about that particular resonance with God in prayer, then close your time of prayer by praying Paul's whole prayer in [Ephesians 3:14-19](#) for yourself or the person the Holy Spirit brought to your mind.

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