

**Connected to Christ and abiding in Him**  
Ephesians 1:15-23, page 947; John 15:1-5, page 876

- I. PRAY THAT THOSE CONNECTED TO CHRIST GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST (EPHESIANS 1:15-23).
  - A. We must pray for each other to know God relationally (15-17).
  - B. We can know God relationally who gave us all our spiritual blessings in Christ (18-21).
    1. *Hope of our calling* – We are confident of heaven (18a).
    2. *His glorious inheritance* – We are God's "wealth" (18b).
    3. *His great power* – We have access to Christ's power (19-21).
  - C. We must recognize Christ's authority over the church (22-23).
    - The world doesn't submit to Christ, but His church must!
  
- II. ABIDE IN CHRIST TO BEAR SPIRITUAL FRUIT WITH THE POWER OF CHRIST (JOHN 15:1-5).
  - A. Christ is the source of all spiritual growth and strength (15:1).
  - B. Christ takes us where we are and enables us to bear fruit (15:2).
    - God lifts up branches who are not bearing fruit ["lift up," not "take away"] and prunes branches for more fruit (2).
  - C. Christ produces fruit/impact through us only as we abide in Him – pursue close fellowship with Him (15:3-5; 1 John 1:3-7).