

Division and Separation

Sometimes it is good to divide and separate

Sometimes it isn't

What is God's work...

- in the world?
- in the Church?

And what are we to do?

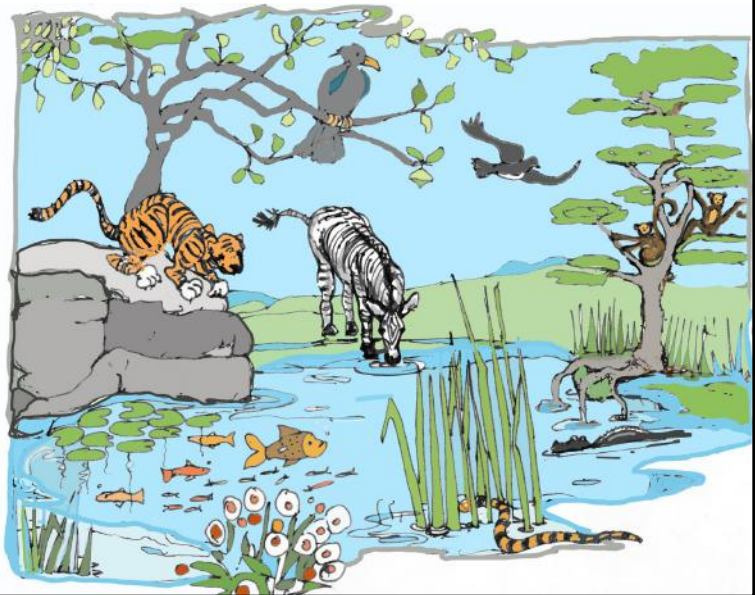


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Putting it all back together

Ephesians 1:1-14

ref.ly/Ep1;niv



2

Ephesians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in
Christ Jesus:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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blessed by the Father

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly
realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the
world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In
love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship
through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his
pleasure and will – ⁶ to the praise of his glorious
grace, which he has freely given us in the One he
loves.

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redeemed through the Son

⁷ In him [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

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redeemed through the Son

¹¹ In him [we] were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

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sealed by the Spirit

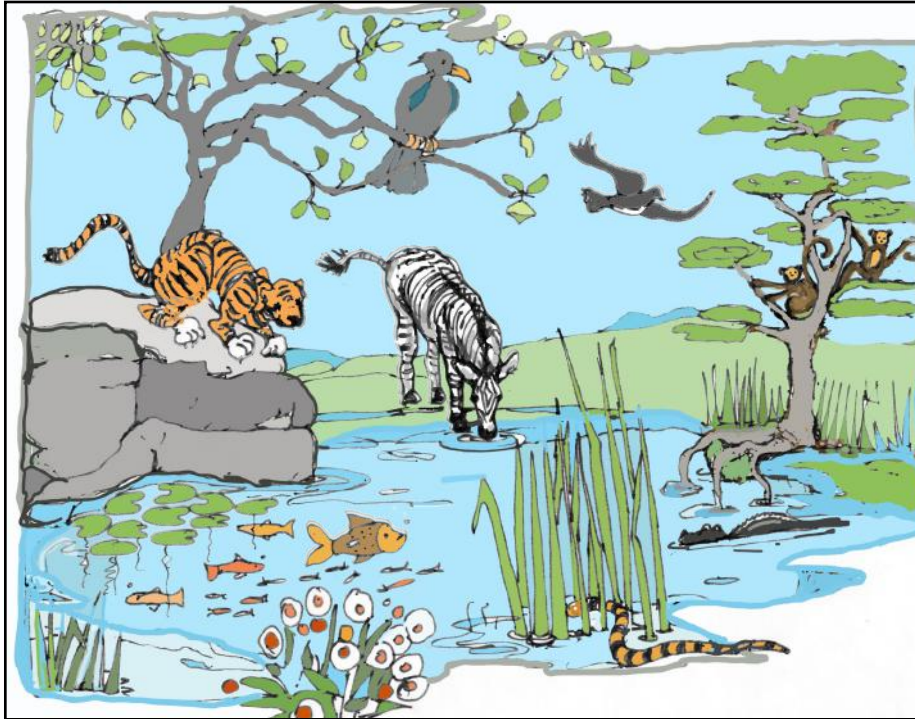
¹³ And **you also** were **included in Christ** when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were **marked in him with a seal** the promised **Holy Spirit**, ¹⁴ who is a deposit **guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are **God's possession**—
to the praise of his glory.

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The Big Idea**God's purpose:**

Christians are central in God's work
**to bring all things in all creation
 to unity in Christ**

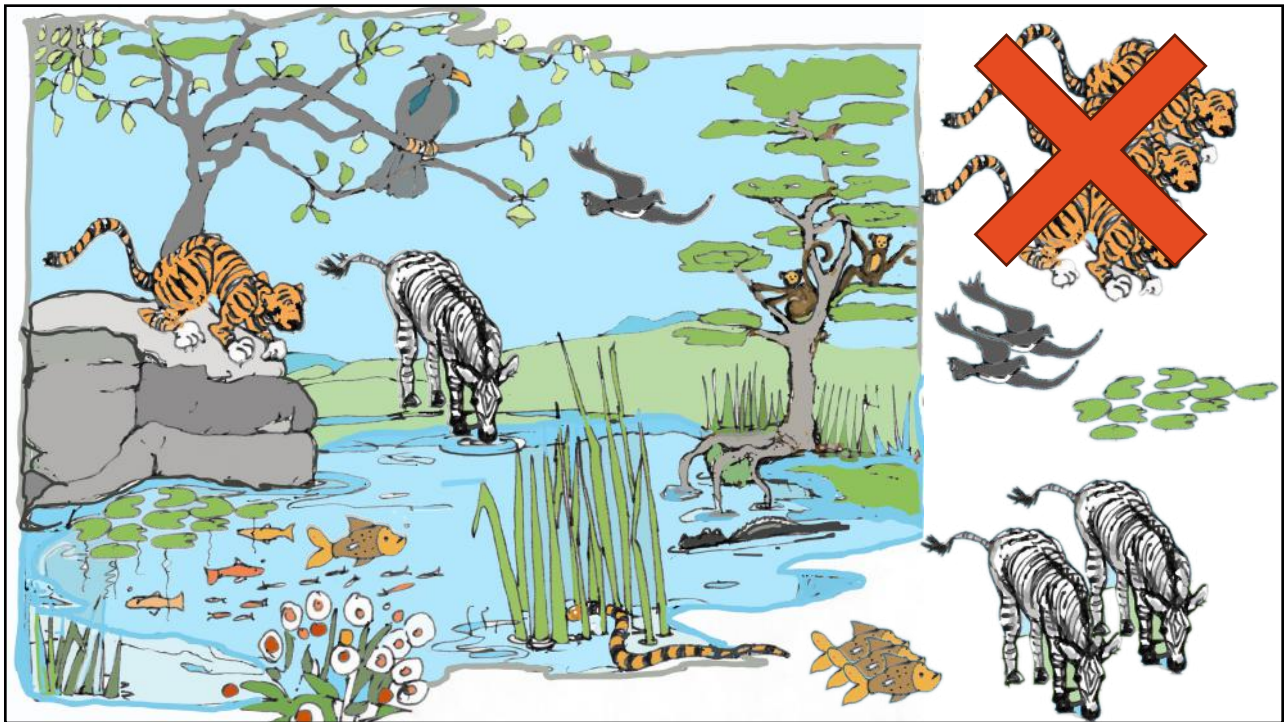
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Ecosystem

Diverse organisms that survive and flourish by depending upon each other and their surroundings

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Human Temptation

Divide and separate:

- Things that make us uncomfortable
- Things that are different from us
- Things we can see problems in

God's Purpose

To unite all things (heaven and earth) in Christ
Led by the one Church

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Not...

- "Everyone is saved"

Rather...

- Everyone and everything will submit to God, fitting into His design
 - Those in Christ → in glory for glory
 - Those not in Christ → in judgment

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The Big Idea

Christians are central in God's work
to bring all things in all creation
to unity in Christ

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What should we do?

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.** There is **one body and one Spirit,** just as you were called to **one hope** when you were called; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism;** **one God and Father of all,** who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:2-6

Within a church

Across churches

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What should we do?

“Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly **make known the mystery of the gospel**, for which I am an ambassador in chains.” Ephesians 6:19-20

Proclaim and show the purpose of God
to bring all things into His unity under Christ

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FIND & FOLLOW


- **Having New Life from God**
- **Growing in relationship with Christ**
- **Growing into godliness**
- **Living on Christ's mission in the world**

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The Big Idea

Christians are central in God's work
to bring all things in all creation
to unity in Christ

that we might be to the praise of His glory
by being rescued and glorified in Christ