

Chapter 2

The Eph 1 Diagram

One major contributor to the incredible life Jesus lived was the clarity He had about the persons and forces at work in creation. He was not confused or fragmented about the big picture of life. He knew the Father and the Spirit. More than just knowing them He knew their character, their responsibilities, and how they operated in the world. He understood His Father's promises. Jesus knew angels, Satan, the demonic and the war. He was keenly aware of sin, how it tempted Him, and how it robbed others. He knew He was made in the image of God according to God's design to fulfill God's call. Jesus lived holistically, understanding everyone and everything at work in creation.

His clarity gave Him great blessings. He enjoyed intimacy with God. He walked victoriously over sin, the world, and Satan. He lived at rest. He was used to free people from life-destroying bondages. He built a following that continues to this day. Clarity is a powerful necessity to living the life Jesus lived.

Unfortunately, many of us live fragmented and confused lives. We have some pieces of the puzzle but we are not sure how they fit with the others and we are not particularly clear on what they are. We have no clear, big picture understanding that gives the definition and perspective we need.

The Way of Rest provides the big picture we all need through a diagram called the Eph 1. The Eph 1 is largely based on Ephesians 1:18-2:10. It is the puzzle box top that gives definition and perspective to the puzzle, and provides insight into how the pieces fit together. The Eph 1 identifies all the persons and forces at work in creation and how they relate to each other. Learning the Eph 1 will give us the clarity Jesus had and we have been longing for. It will give us something we can continually come back to and work from. We will learn how to take one piece out of the Eph 1, examine it, meditate on it, be blessed by it, and then put it back in the puzzle.

While there are many who have disconnected and confused faiths, there are others whose faith is disproportionate. They are caught up in one section of the puzzle. In that area of the puzzle they have many pieces properly placed but the rest of the puzzle is missing. A person is strong in end times but Trinitarian balance is missing. Another person is strong in the providence of God but spiritual warfare is not there. The Eph 1 diagram provides us a way to pull out different pieces, study them, and then put them back. Properly used the diagram will keep us solid in all areas of our relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Armed with clarity we will be positioned to be used by the Spirit to deliver others from their confusion. We will be making disciples. Then those disciples will go and bless others.

In this chapter the Eph 1 diagram has been broken into six steps. Read through the passage first. Walk through the diagram. Then come back and read the passage again. If you are going to embrace the Way of Rest as your method and strategy of discipleship, then you will need to internalize the Eph 1. You will constantly work from it as you share with others.

Ephesians 1:18-2:10

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved, and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Diagram 1 - God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

God
Son Father Holy Spirit

Diagram 1 depicts One God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and shows that

1. God exists before time.
2. God exists in community - He is relational.
3. The spiritual has priority over the physical.

The white space in diagram 1 demonstrates that in the beginning, before God created anything, He was. He is outside of time and Lord of time. He is not subject to anything or anyone. God existed in perfect relationship with Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Therefore, His essence is relational. His essence is also spiritual. Before there is anything physical there is the One spiritual being, God. Consequently, the spiritual has priority over the physical even today.

Diagram 2 - Creation

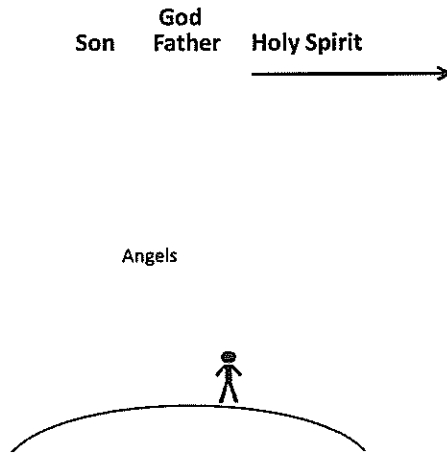


Diagram 2 depicts God's work in creation and shows that

1. Everything is made by God - angels, universe, and man.
2. God moves everything according to His will. (The arrow symbolizes the will of God.)
3. Man has been made in the image of God.
4. Man has been made for a relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
5. Obedience is the demonstration of love.

At some point God the Father decided to build creation. His will is carried out by the Son and the Spirit in such a way that all three persons of the Trinity perform different functions in the creating. Angels, the physical universe, and man are all created by God. Man stands out as the unique creation of God as the only one created in the image of God. God made man to be in relationship with Him, to be blessed by Him, and to be faithful to Him. God places man in the Garden of Eden and commands him not to eat from one of the trees called the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God puts man in a situation where his love would be demonstrated through his faithful obedience to God's Word. God makes all of creation in six days. On the sixth day Scripture teaches that God saw all that He had made and it was "very good."⁶

⁶ Genesis 1:31

Diagram 3 - Rebellion, War, and Bondage

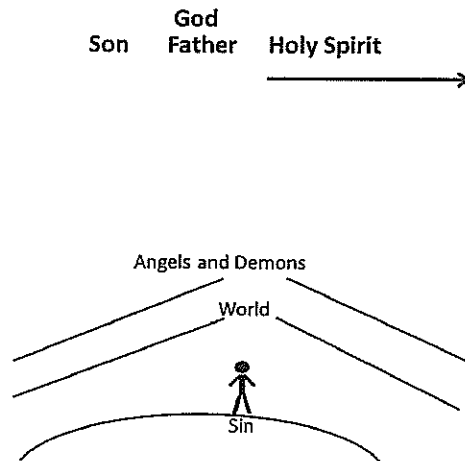


Diagram 3 depicts Two Kingdoms in Conflict, Three Sources of Bondage and shows

1. The rebellion of Lucifer and the creation of his demonic kingdom.
2. The war between the kingdoms.
3. The world ruled by the enemy.
4. The fall of man.
5. The bondage that has come from sin, the world, and Satan.

Sometime after the “very good” of Genesis 1:31 and the appearance of the serpent in Genesis 3:1 there was a rebellion in the heavenlies. Lucifer rebelled against God wanting glory for himself. Convincing one-third of the angels to leave with him, Lucifer, now known as Satan, establishes his demonic kingdom. What began in the heavenlies came to Earth as Satan disguised himself as a serpent tempted God's created woman, Eve. Adam and Eve both fell in temptation and sinned against God. Consequently, Satan took dominion of the world and sin entered life corrupting all of God's creation. Satan, the world, and sin now actively war against God and man. What God created for life was now at war and producing death.

Diagram 4 - Jesus

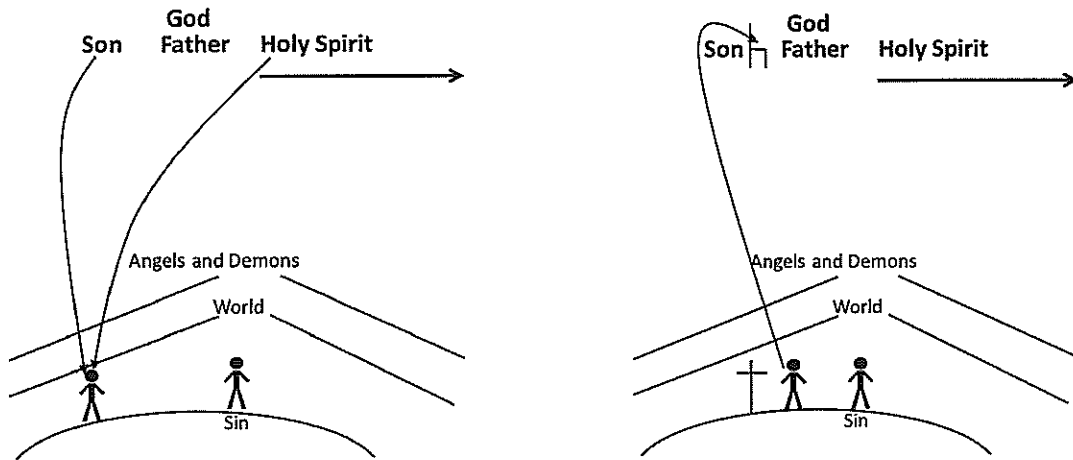


Diagram 4 depicts the story of the Four Promises of God and shows that

1. The Son of God came in the flesh as Jesus in fulfillment of the Father's promise.
2. Jesus lived a life filled with the Spirit.
3. Jesus re-established the Kingdom of God on earth.
4. His death is a sufficient sacrifice for our sins.
5. He is raised over all rulers and authorities and sits at the right hand of the Father making the promises of God available to anyone who will believe in Him.

God has always been and will always be faithful. He will not allow the enemy victory. Therefore, according to His promise, God the Father sent His Son full of the Holy Spirit to Earth. Jesus was born because God the Father was faithful to His word. Jesus lived a sinless life through the power of the Holy Spirit re-establishing the Kingdom of God. In His life, death, and resurrection Jesus overcame sin, the world, and Satan. He is then raised far above all rulers and powers and is eternally enthroned at the right hand of the Father.

Diagram 5 - Salvation and Life in Christ

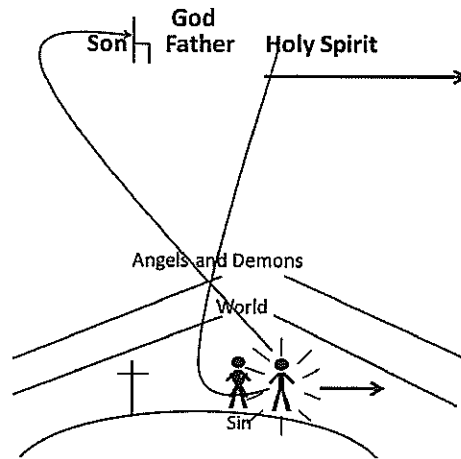


Diagram 5 depicts the Four Promises (love, freedom, rest, and power) and the Five Disciplines (reflecting, releasing, receiving, resisting, and responding) and shows how

1. We surrender and begin walking with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. We walk in the promises of God by grace through the work of Jesus.
3. We are raised and seated with Jesus at the right hand of the Father.
4. We practice the five disciplines.
5. We walk with others.

Every person lives in the war - subject to the powers of Satan, the world, and sin - separated from the perfect love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through the spreading of the Gospel, people are given opportunities to surrender their lives and begin walking with Jesus in the promises of God. Upon surrendering to Jesus, a person is filled with the promised Holy Spirit, transferred into the Kingdom of God, made a child of God, raised and seated with Christ in the heavenlies, and made an heir of the promises of God. All of this is done by grace through Jesus Christ. In his/her new life he/she learns to practice new disciplines that align with his/her new beliefs and new position. In his/her new life, he/she gathers together with other followers of Jesus and the Holy Spirit creates, sustains, and grows communities of faith who go to make disciples of others.

Diagram 6 - The End

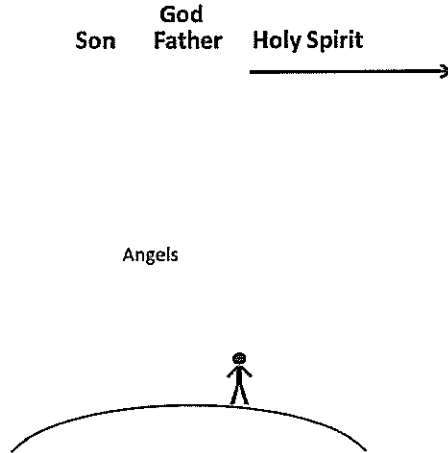


Diagram 6 depicts the final results

1. Judgment
2. Recreation

Finally, God the Father sends Jesus again to completely fulfill His promise of total victory and restoration. Everyone is judged. The faithful pass into eternal life in the presence of God. The unfaithful, both man and demonic, are cast into eternal damnation where they will suffer. In accordance with His word, God remakes creation without sin or the possibility of sin. The faithful live in eternity enjoying the presence of God.

EPH 1 CONCLUSION

The Eph 1 diagram is the puzzle box providing definition and clarity for any person who wants to understand who and what the pieces are in life, and how they go together. These are the people and forces Jesus knew. It will be a powerful tool in our own discipleship and as we go to make disciples. The diagram helps us see the big picture of who God is, what He is doing, who the players are in life, and how Jesus works. The Eph 1 diagram will help us in discipling others as we seek to properly interpret the circumstances of their lives and connect the disconnected pieces of their faith. The Holy Spirit may use this diagram to help one to whom you are ministering see the reality of three powers working against their faith. The Holy Spirit may use the diagram to help another see the authority of Jesus that is theirs. The Holy Spirit may use the diagram to help another clarify the need to die to the old life and live completely to Jesus.

The Eph 1 diagram also gives us the ability to see and teach the five principles of the Way of Rest. If we can learn the diagram, then we will be able to train others. I encourage anyone interested in walking in the Way of Rest to master the Eph 1 diagram. Although simple, the diagram can get as complex as anyone wants to get. In chapters 4-8, many Scripture passages will be given that support the Eph 1. As one grows in their comfort drawing and explaining the diagram, Scripture citations should be added to the presentation.

The Eph 1 diagram is intended to clarify the persons and forces at work in the world for the purposes of walking in the presence and promises of God. It should not be studied for the sake of memorization and regurgitation, nor should it be used to impress people with our insight. If study of the diagram is not furthering one's experience of the life of Jesus and His promises, then it is being used incorrectly.

When we combine the Eph 1 with organics that we will learn in the next chapter, then we will have powerful, simple tools to go and make disciples.

