

The Church at Ephesus

We need to address a lack that exists in the English language.

When we use pronouns we don't ascribe any real importance to them. For us in our language pronouns are vague and general.

This is not the case in many other languages. They are often important to understanding who is being included in a subject. Since we generalize pronouns so much we can miss the subject of a message, or miss-apply the subject of a message.

Pronoun: A pronoun is a word or group of words that one may substitute for a noun or noun phrase.

- Old English used a much more complex pronoun system much like the pronouns of German.

Examples

We are going to the grocery store.

- Who is we?
- Does it include the person being spoken to?
- Does it include everyone in the room?
- Or does it include the person speaking and someone else who is not present? In order for English speakers to communicate exactly who is included in this statement, we would have to go into great detail, naming who is intended to go, and maybe even who is intended not to go.

This is not the case in many languages. This can be effectively communicated by a pronoun. A simple pronoun could communicate that we, just the two of us, excluding anyone else... are going to the grocery store. This would take a few sentences to communicate in English, but not so in other languages.

This issue with the English language then requires us to be careful when reading scripture to be more careful when deciding on who is being addressed.

We also in our culture, are very ego focused. In other words we are at the center of our thoughts. So if I see a statement that states "us", I tend to apply that to me personally, when it could mean us as a general population.

So when we see a statement that a gift is given to us. Is that us collectively, or is it us as a general population? English does not specify.

So when we see in scripture "God chose us..." is he saying that He chose us individually,

or collectively?

Us?

Greek Our, us in the first few verses of Eph

- vs. 2 hemon
 - second person genitive plural
 - genitive: indicating possession or close association.
 - probably includes everyone.

Vs 2. Grace to you and peace from God the father (of us hemon) and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- This implies that God is the source of all people, believers and non believers.
- All people are included in this statement.
- vs hemas
 - Second person accusative plural
 - accusative: to be made a subject of.
 - This indicated that these multiple people included in the group of Christ have been chosen.

Vs 3. Blessed be the God and Father of the Lord (of us hemon) Jesus Christ, the one, having blessed (us hemas) with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ

Vs. 4 just as He chose (us hemas) in Him before the foundation of the world to be for (us hemas) holy and blameless before Him in love

Vs. 5 having predestined (us hemas) for the divine adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of the will of Him

Vs. 6 to the praise of the glory of the of grace of Him which He has freely given (us hemas) in the Beloved One,