



Sermon Discussion Guide

“ADOPTION INTO THE KINGDOM”

July 17, 2022

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Icebreaker: What comes to your mind when you hear the word adoption? Is there anyone in your immediate family that has been adopted? What have you learned from them and your family?

THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE.

OUR DESIRE IS THAT YOU WOULD USE THIS “GUIDE” TO LEAD YOU INTO DEEPER PERSONAL STUDY.

“⁴For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love ⁵He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will ...” (Ephesians 1:4-5)

This weekend we are looking at an interesting topic, adoption found in (Ephesians 1:4-5). But before we go there we have to understand (v. 3).

There can be no reflection on (Ephesians 1:4-5) except in the context of praise and worship of the God from whom all the blessings of salvation flow. (Ephesians 1:3) says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.” Here Paul uses the word bless in the form of an adjective, a verb, and a noun. God is blessed. He has blessed us. He has given us every blessing. In Christ, God has done for us what we could never have done for ourselves, and He deserves all the glory for it.

Among the blessings God bestows on us in Christ is the blessing of adoption. We have been brought into God’s family and made God’s children. From God we have received “... the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Romans 8:15). As far as our status is concerned, we are no longer “strangers and aliens” to the people of God but “members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

Right off the bat in the opening section of Ephesians, our attention is drawn to **four issues** in connection with our adoption. The **first** is that we were predestined to our new status. “He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will” (Ephesians 1:5). God’s adoption of us was initiated by God Himself. “The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but **all to come to repentance**.” (Ephesians 3:9)

The **second** aspect of adoption is that it is “to the praise of his glorious grace” (Ephesians 1:6). Our adoption into God’s family is not so much something that endows a benefit on us; first, it is something that enhances the reputation of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has opted to become our God and Father too. All the praise is His. Our adoption arises out of His will for us to come to repentance and our free will to choose, and focuses on His glory and praise. We did not deserve it and could not achieve it. But God, by His mercy and favor, conveys this blessing to all who come to repentance so that He will be praised throughout endless ages of eternity.

The **third** aspect of Paul’s doctrine of adoption is that it is in Christ. Some eighty times Paul uses the word combination “in Christ” or “in Him” in the course of his letters. There is no spiritual blessing outside of Christ. But once we are in Him, there is no spiritual blessing that is not ours (Ephesians 1:3–6). The whole complex of our adoption finds its center and its meaning in Jesus Christ.

The **Fourth** aspect of adoption, we are adopted so that we will, in fact, bear the family likeness. We are chosen to be holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4). These are the characteristics of the children of God. They are set apart to be “blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation” (Philippians 2:15). There can be no adoption without a conferring of the family likeness and the implanting of a new impulse toward holiness and godliness.

Questions:

1. What is the new status we have been predestined to? How does it make you feel to know that you have been adopted to that new status?
2. How does your new status of adoption change the way you ought to be living your life? How does this affect God's reputation?
3. How does being in Christ make a difference in your life. What blessings come out of that relationship?
4. What is the family likeness that comes with being adopted into God's family? What does it mean to be "... blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation" (Philippians 2:15). What does that look like in the world we live in? What changes do you need to make?

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WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be
enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of
Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you.
I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough
room to take it in! **Try it! Put me to the test!**"
(Malachi 3:10) [NLT]

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Year-to-date required:	\$10,368
<u>Yearly-up-to-date received:</u>	<u>\$6,722</u>
DIFFERENCE:	- \$3,196

***(Currently we are - \$3,916 under budget.)**

Weekly budget requirement:	\$5,319
<u>Received 07/10/2022</u>	<u>\$3,669</u>
DIFFERENCE:	- \$1,650

ATTENDANCE: 68

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