

Adopted for Life, Part 1

Series: Adopted for Life

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Scripture: Ephesians 1:1-8

1Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: **2**Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3Praise 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 to be adopted as his sons 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. **7**In him 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.

Group Session

Opening Questions

What are your thoughts when you hear the word “adoption”? What Biblical concepts do you related to adoption? (Check a bible dictionary if you draw a blank on this.)

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. One definition of adoptions describes it as a process whereby a person assumes the parenting for another... and that it is intended to effect a permanent change in status. If you were to be adopted, how does the “permanent change in status” sound?

Back to the spiritual concept, how does that principle sound?

2. God's adoption is a result of His favor, not our irresistible appeal. How do parents go about selecting a child to adopt?
3. The doctrine of election is an assurance to us that when we falter or fail, God is not going to abandon us. How hard is it for us to accept the fact that God adopted us as no result of our own actions?
4. God's adoption means forgiveness of sins, permanent redemption and unconditional love. God's adoption leads to indescribable peace. How does God's adoption of us lead to indescribable peace?
5. Have you ever considered adoption? What fears do you have when considering adoption? Have you ever considered adoption from the standpoint of the child?

6. God's blessing of family membership comes with major responsibilities. What responsibilities do you see from both perspectives?

Closing Challenge

How can the principle of adoption help us be a part of God's redemption of a lost world?

Other passages cited...

Ezekiel

James 1:27 pure and undefiled religion is to take care of orphans

Proverbs 23:10-11

John 8:44

John 14:18

1 Pet 1:23