

## Ephesians 1:3-6 Adopted and Accepted

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

### Picture the scene:

A) A young boy from a third world country where he has lived on the streets in intense poverty – is brought to an orphanage.

B) Conditions are better but still not great – Until he is adopted by a wealthy American family and brought back to the states. **HE IS LOVED!**

C) He is showered with gifts – New clothes - he has his own room, AND every toy imaginable

D) But each morning the family awakens to find the boy – **sleeping out on the back porch** – dressed in his old clothes.

**Problem: He doesn't know that He belongs or to whom He belongs!**

A) Or the price they paid to bring him into their family.

### That is the picture of many Christians today –

A) they have been blessed with every Spiritual blessing in Christ

B) They have been clothed in the Righteousness of Christ – HOW God the father sees them

C) They have been Chosen by God – set apart to Him

1) And yet they live their lives devoid of God's power and resources.

**They have been richly blessed and yet they act like they are spiritual poor.**

A) Which is why Paul exhorts BELIEVERS over and over with statements like this one – Romans 13:14

<sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

B) Or Ephesians 2:22 <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

C) Paul is wanting us to understand that in Christ we don't just have a new status or identity in Christ,

1) we have a whole new existence.

D) Old things have passed away, behold all things are new. SO **walk and live in that that newness of life.**

**He describes it as putting off one lifestyle like taking off an old coat and putting on a new one.**

A) We could actually sum up these exhortations in this simple phrase that I would encourage you to memorize:

**“Be who you are now in Christ, instead of who you were in your flesh!”**

B) Or to put it another way, **“be who you are now in Christ, instead of who you were in your humanness?”**

C) In Colossians chapter 3 Paul actually describes it this way; in v. 1 who says **Since you have been raised with Christ!** –

1) That is our new position, RAISED WITH CHRIST

**See our old man, our old woman, who we are in the flesh, our old sinful nature, was crucified with Christ and buried in the tomb,**

A) and we have now been raised to life in Christ. – Everything attached to our old life is DEAD

B) In John 11 we read the story of when Jesus called a man named Lazarus out of the grave.

1) Lazarus had been dead for 4 days, but Jesus called him to come out of the grave,

C)and Lazarus comes walking out of the cave they had buried him in all wrapped up in his grave clothes.

**D)When Jesus saw Lazarus walking out he said to those who were nearby, lose him!**

1)Take off those graves clothes!

E)See living people don't need grave clothes.

**Well Lazarus is a picture of all of us! – We were dead in our trespasses and sins – all it's tendencies**

A)But we have been raised – we don't need our old grave clothes anymore –

B)We have been made new – take off the old put on the new

C)This is how Paul describes it in the book of Colossians – Since you have been raised - now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. <sup>9</sup> Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. <sup>10</sup> Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. Colossians 3:8-10 NLT

D)Take off the old and put on the new!

**E)Be who you are in Christ instead of who you are in your flesh!**

1)Don't be who you used to be – but be who you are now in Jesus

**But understand this is more than just putting on a new uniform - Think of it this way.**

A)Most of you know – I am a LA Dodgers fan – don't hold that against me –

B)One of my favorite players on the Dodgers is 3B Justin Turner –

1)Lets say I go to Dodger stadium – They let me Put on Justin Turners uniform –

C)But just putting on the uniform doesn't make me a Dodger –

1)In the same way – just going to church doesn't make you a Christian

**Now lets say they not only let me put on the uniform they actually put me on the team – Official MLB Roster**

A)Now even if they actually put me on the team – I don't have the skill to play at that level at this stage in my life.

B)I would make a fool of myself!

C)But if there was some way that it would not just be me filling Justin Turners uniform but his skills transferred to my body.

1)Now were talking – I will take the skills - minus the big bushy red beard.

**Well in essence that is what Jesus has done for us – We get placed in Christ – His life and resources become ours.**

A)Which is exactly the idea behind the next statement that Paul makes about our position in Christ – RD V.5-6 again

5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

B)The word “predestined” means “to mark out boundaries in advance.”

1)God the Father Predetermined that He was going to adopt you

C)So He marked out the boundaries in advance to make us His adopted children

D)But here is what I want you to understand this term adoption doesn't speak of how we were brought into the family of God

E)But rather it speaks of our Status in the family of God

**We are Born again into the family of God – John 3 - Nicodemus – Must be Born again**

A)Physical birth –also Spiritual

**B)Being born again – we place our faith in Jesus – brought to life spiritually –**

1)That is how we are brought into the family of God

C) Faith in Jesus..... is what makes you a part of the family of God!

**After you put your faith in Jesus – God refers to you as his adopted son or daughter**

A) You see, the biblical term, “adoption,” speaks of status

Aa) See In Biblical times People were not typically adopted as little kids like they are today - but as adults.

1) For instance a slave who was beloved by the family he served after he served his seven year term – adopted into the family

B) So they came into the family – adult status - Ready to take advantage as an heir of all the resources that were at their disposal.

C) See in a Roman society a young boy, the son of his father would be destined to be his father's heir

1) But as a child would be under the care of a servant.

**D) EVEN THOUGH he is *destined* to inherit everything,**

1) While he is a boy he actually has less day-to-day freedom and authority than a high ranking **slave** in the household –

**SO his rights, privileges & power to use his inheritance were restricted until he came of age.**

A) And Though a Son – he is never referred to as an heir until he became of age

B) But once he came of age usually around 14 he entered into participation in the family business

1) And he had a share in his Father's inheritance

C) When he came of age - A public legal ceremony was performed – **To signify his ADULT STATUS**

1) or THE IDEA now he held a state of Privilege – Adult Status - Being an Heir.

**This is the idea behind this word Adoption –**

A) We are brought into the family of God – not as little children – waiting for something

Aa) We are brought into the family of God and adopted – given an adult status –

1) Full rights – full privileges

**B) Romans 8:17 17 Heirs – Co-heirs with Christ**

C) There is no coming of age – that needs to take place.

**D) We are not teenagers waiting to turn 16 so that we can drive the family car**

1) We come into this with an adult status- All the resources of our King is at our disposal.

**“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him (Jesus) who called us by glory and virtue.” 2 Peter 1:3-4**

**A) Peter is wanting us to realize the privilege and power that belongs to us in Christ**

**B) All things that pertain to life and godliness are ours**

1) and come to us through the knowledge or the knowing of who Jesus is and living in relationship with Him.

**C) Our status is that we are supplied and lacking in nothing that pertains to living our lives for God.**

**D) The very same power that brought Jesus forth from the grave is living inside of us.**

1) Our status is one of privilege, power, and purpose because of our position in Christ.

**Need wisdom? His wisdom is available to us, we just need to ask James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

**A) Need strength? Jesus tells us his grace is sufficient for you, for his strength is made perfect in weakness.”**

**B) Whatever the need is that we have to live godly meaningful and impactful lives,**

1) Jesus is ready to supply it.

**C) That is part of our privilege and status as God's adopted kids!**

**D) Awesome!!!! – Especially if we appropriate it! – Nothing to fear**

1) Nothing that is too hard – We are blessed – supplied – Strong

E) That is what God has done for us – that is what God wants us to grab a hold of.

Several years ago some friends of ours from our church in Oregon decided to make a major change in their lives.

A) Ron and Carol were empty nesters and Ron was retired, both of them were in their 60's

B) And when most couples at that stage in life are thinking about trips to Hawaii and ocean cruises –  
1) RV and traveling the country

C) Ron and Carol decided to move to Mexico and become missionaries.

They chose a very poor area of Mexico to move to in order to help people and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A) One of the first things that happened when they arrived was they met Marcos.

B) Marcos was a little 7yr old boy with cerebral palsy who was living in a trash dump.

1) Because of his cerebral palsy and severe living conditions even though Marcos was 7 years old he only weighed 50lbs.

C) He literally looked like a 4 year old.

1) He couldn't talk or take care of himself – he had been abandoned and left to die

When Ron and Carol saw that little helpless boy living in that trash dump, God touched their hearts.

A) They would end up adopting Marcos, and he became their mission.

B) Over the years they would end up spending tens of thousands of dollars to help Marcos get well

1) and grow and get the help that he needed.

C) Their lives were a powerful display of God's love and grace in action.

I know there were plenty of people who knew Ron and Carol

A) who wondered why a couple in that stage of their lives would move to such a hard place and take on such a huge burden and responsibility?

Aa) The answer is really simple, because Jesus would/ Jesus did.

B) Jesus was residing in heaven, being worshipped by the heavenly host.

1) But he saw us living in the trash dump of this fallen world and left heaven in order to come to our rescue.

C) He would give his all, his very life in order to rescue you and I and give us a hope and a future.

1) Why would He do that? Very simple He loved us.

Paul here in Eph 1:5,6 actually gives us three reasons why God chose us and adopted us into his family –

“Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, #1 according to the good pleasure of His will, #2 to the praise of the glory of His grace, #3 by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

# 1 that it was according to the good pleasure of His will, which means that he took great pleasure in rescuing us.

A) It wasn't a burden to him, it wasn't an obligation it was pure joy.

B) The thing that is really interesting is that Ron and Carol didn't know anything about Marcos,

1) and he had never met them or had done anything to harm them.

C) They just saw a needy little boy and responded.

You and I on the other hand, God knew us fully, knew everything about us, had actually formed us and created us.

A) And we rejected his love and rebelled against him and hurt him deeply, but despite all of that he came to our rescue.

B) He chose to love us and restore us and he takes great pleasure in doing that.

C) God had iPhone – Computer - Your pic home screen – that is my girl – that is my son

God took pleasure in pulling you and I out to the trash dump –

A) What is really heavy is that in order to Bless you & I – The Father had to Bruise His Son

1) ISA 53:10 – *It pleased the father to Bruise His Son*

B) In seeing the Blessings & the lives that would be changed by the Cross the Father could take pleasure in the death of His Son

C) People like us MADE WHOLE -

#1 It was according to HIS good pleasure

#2 God chose us and adopted us, brings us into his family with an adult status because it is to the praise of the glory of His grace!

A) To put it another way, it magnifies his amazing grace.

B) You see the heart of Jesus is for all the lost people living in the trash dump of this world.

C) SEE when he rescues us and helps us get whole!

1) AND when we start living as people who have been transformed by our loving redeemer,

D) When we start living like people who have been placed in Christ, **people who know they are blessed**,

1) people who have an abundance of resources and promises from God at our disposal,

E) it has a contagious affect on the people around us who are still trying to find what they need in the trash dump.

Our lives magnify that God is a great God who alone satisfies the longing in our hearts.

A) So it is according to the praise of the glory of His grace.

B) Our hearts are filled with gratitude – joy – and others notice it

C) Please understand this church – please don't miss this –

1) These wonderful blessings that belong to us because we are in Christ – are NOT – just so we can say – Wow I am blessed!

D) These blessings are meant to be shared – God wants to fill our hearts with his heart – BURDENED for lost people

1) To Live the **gospel – good news** – Yes but also to share it

So He chose us and adopted us because it brings him great pleasure – it magnifies His glorious grace

#3 To make us accepted in the beloved!

A) Acceptance is such a big word. Acceptance is something we all long for.

B) When we were little kids we longed to be accepted by the kids in our classroom at school and that never goes away.

C) Think about the stupid things you did in Middle school or High School – in order to be accepted.

1) The Crazy clothes you wore – Pics – what was I thinking – Hair style – ridiculous – surfer hair – Afro Bball team

D) Job application – hoping to be accepted

1) marriage hoping for spouses family approval

And we have all experienced what it is like to now be accepted

A) We all know what rejection feels like.

B) God doesn't want any of us to feel that way – So he brings us into the family – clothes us all equally

1) **ALL HIS RESOURCES ARE OURS!**

C) He watches to see who is going to use them!

Everything we need is ours – and because we are accepted He invites us to come boldly into his presence receive grace... need

A) Question is will you come? – Try to do it on your own

B) Will you wait until you are desperate?

C) Will you let your father supply you or will you

Before we go today – I want to share one last thing about our adoption in Christ Romans 8:15-17

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Here Paul is wanting us to understand that our position is not just **one of privilege and power, but also of intimacy.**

**The term Abba means daddy.**

A) Abba is the most intimate expression of a Hebrew child to his or her father.....

B) Paul declared in the book of Galatians chapter 4:6 **that the very spirit of Jesus is in our hearts crying out Abba Father!**

C) Because of God's spirit within our hearts we have this built in instinctive longing for intimacy w/ God!

D) And This is where it all starts – Intimacy –  
1) He wants us You exist to Know Jesus – close to Jesus

**Our world tries to distract us into thinking – there are other things that we really need or are lacking**

A) Try this – buy that – Go here – do this – follow this new trend

B) Endless cycle – looking for a REPLACEMENT IDENTITY

C) in Isaiah 55:2-3 God asked the question –

**“Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.  
3 Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your  
soul may live.”**

**God says come to me – that your soul may live!**

A) Come to me and receive life

B) He says – COME NOT DO SOMETHING

C) Just Come and receive what I have for you!

Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His  
goodness,  
And *for* His wonderful works to the children of  
men!

<sup>9</sup> For He satisfies the longing soul,  
And fills the hungry soul with goodness. Psalm  
107:8-9

**God is calling you to come to Him today**

A) Be born again – Soul to life

B) Receive his grace – Love – forgiveness

C) Blessings – Adopted Child

**God is saying prodigals – Come back to me**

A) Never going to find what you are looking for in the world – Replacement identity –

B) Never ending search

C) You belong to me – I Chose you – Come home

Pray