

**Life Together | Adopted in Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:3-6**  
**Jason Finley, Discipleship Pastor**  
**Lord's Day, June 25, 2017**

“Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption.... [Adoption] is the nucleus and focal point of the whole New Testament teaching on the Christian life.” – J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

**ADOPTION IN CHRIST DEMONSTRATES THAT:**

**1) WE ARE WANTED**

- a. Adoption is the father's choice prompted by His love and good-pleasure (vv. 4-5)
- b. Adoption excludes all human merit (vv. 4, 6)

Eph 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- c. Adoption magnifies the triune God (v. 6)

Father's sovereign choice; Son's redeeming work; Spirit's inner witness and power.

vv. 13-14 <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Gal 4:6 <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

**2) WE BELONG**

- a. To our Heavenly Father
  - i. Full rights of sonship
    - 1. Security
    - 2. Inheritance

Eph 3:6 “This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Gal 4:7 “So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”

3. Bold access with confidence to God

Eph 3:11-12 <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

ii. Cannot be thwarted or overturned

“God’s will” is repeated here more than anywhere else in Paul’s writings (vv. 5, 9, 11, 5:17)

b. To our Father’s most majestic family—the church

Gal 6:10 “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Eph 2:13, 19 <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.... <sup>20</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,”

### 3) WE REPRESENT

a. In our character and conduct

i. Imputed righteousness

Being justified means that God views us with a clear sin record and the very righteousness of Jesus.

ii. Grace-motivated sanctification – we want to be like our father!

We are becoming who we are.

When we sin, it doesn’t destroy our position as sons, but mars our fellowship with our Father.

Am I fleeing from the evil things of which my Father despises?

b. In our mission

i. To the lost

Who am I seeking to tell of my Father's love to?

ii. To the fatherless

How can I help display God's fatherly care to the fatherless?