

**Sermon Title:** Adoption

**Sermon Series:** Ephesians: Who We Are

**Scripture:** Ephesians 1:3-6

**Speaker:** Pastor Mike Barnhart



**Why do I do what I do?**

***We do what we do because we think what we think.***

Letter to Ephesians – Broken into 2 sections.

Chapters 1-3: Addresses Identity

Chapters 4-6: Addresses Behaviors

How do you find your identity?

The core identity of a Christ-follower: **Adoption**

### **Ephesians 1:3–6 ESV**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and

blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

God wanted to adopt us.

If you've come to know Jesus, your most defining moment isn't who threw you out, but who took you in.

## **"He Adopted Me"**

### **What does it mean to be a child of God?**

"God guarantees the adoption of all those who are justified in and for the sake of his only son, Jesus Christ. Those adopted enjoy the liberties and privileges of God's children, have his name put on them, receive the Spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, and are enabled to cry, Abba, Father. They are pitied, protected, provided for, and disciplined by him as a father. They are never cast off, however, and are sealed until the day of redemption and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation."  
(Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 12, Adoption)

### **A child of God is:**

#### **1. Cared For**

### **Psalm 103:13 ESV**

13 As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

## **2. Protected**

### **Proverbs 14:26 ESV**

26 In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence,  
and his children will have a refuge.

### **Psalms 27:1–3 ESV**

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.

### **3. Provided For**

#### **Ephesians 1:3 ESV**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

#### **Matthew 6:30–32 ESV**

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

### **4. Disciplined**

“we should be holy and blameless before him.” (Ephesians 1:4)

***“Sanctification” - growing to become more like Christ by grace & discipline.***

#### **Hebrews 12:6 ESV**

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

## **5. Never Cast Away**

### **Lamentations 3:31–32 ESV**

31 For the Lord will not

cast off forever,

32 but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion

according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

### **Hebrews 13:5 ESV**

5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

### **Ephesians 1:3–6 ESV**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

***“I’ll never cast you away.”***

#### **4 Things you need to know:**

***A. Know that God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.***

##### **John 3:16 ESV**

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

##### **John 10:10 ESV**

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

***B. You’re a sinner and separated from God.***

##### **Romans 3:23 ESV**

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

##### **Romans 6:23 ESV**

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***C. Believe that Jesus is the only way to God.***

##### **Romans 5:8 ESV**

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

##### **John 14:6 ESV**

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

***D. Receive Christ personally.***

**John 1:12 ESV**

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

**Ephesians 2:8–9 ESV**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

***He adopted you.***

## **Group Discussion Questions**

### **Pray**

In the message, Pastor Mike said, “We do what we do because we think what we think.” How have you seen this true in your life?

Do you feel as if there is something in your life that influences your primary identity besides God? If so, please share.

Read Ephesians 1:3-6.

Is there anything surprising or confusing about these verses?

How do these verses convey that you were part of God’s plan from the very beginning?

What does it mean to you that God adopted you?

Ephesians 1:3-6 talk about being “blessed” by God. What do these verses tell us about how we’re “blessed”?



What does Ephesians 1:3-6 tell you about how much God loves you?

What is God challenging you to believe, remember, or do because of this text?

**Pray.**