

Adopted

SMALL GROUP NOTES

Martin Segal, Canterbury 10th June 2012

Theme

Last Sunday we continued our 'Who do you think you are' series looking at the topic of adoption. Contrasting how we are all born as spiritual orphans but in Christ have been adopted as sons.

Scriptures

Ephesians 1:1-5

Ephesians 5:1

Outline

- Who we once were – we began by looking at how because of Adam and Eve's rebellion we are all born as spiritual orphans, separated from God and alone.
- Who we are now – next we focused in on Ephesians 1:5 looking at how in Christ each of us, if we are Christians, have now been predestined for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ.
- How we now live – finally we looked at the overflow of being adopted and how we are now those who walk in love as Ephesians 5:1 tells us.

Questions for discussion

1) Hearing that the Bible teaches all humans are born as spiritual orphans, which means we are separate and alone. Although as when you become a Christian your identity instantly changes, we don't always see the outworking of being adopted as sons. Work through this table and discuss if there is still an orphan-heart mind-set in your life?

ORPHANS		SONS
See God as Master, always striving to earn his approval and favour.	View of God	See God as a loving Father.
Live constantly striving for approval from those around you.	Need for Approval	Know you're accepted by God and don't need to perform.
You live your life comparing yourself to others, which results in pride (I'm better) or shame (I'm worse).	Self Image	Know you're valued by God and significant in his eyes.
You seek comfort in counterfeit places, addictions, escapisms and busyness.	Source of Comfort	Knowing God is your comfort you are able to rest in his love.
Your relationships with others is full of competition, rivalry and jealousy.	Relationship with peers	Knowing you're adopted through nothing of your own merit you are able to be united with others. Humbly loving, supporting and encouraging.
The way you love others is based on there performance, if they are nice or do what you need you'll love them.	Love for others	The way you love other people is based on God's love for you. So you're able to love them even though they may let you down.
See yourself as slave/servant.	Position	See yourself as son/daughter

2) Read Ephesians 1:5 and discuss these 3 key phrases

a) He predestined us

- How does knowing God destined in advance our adoption affect how we live?

b) For adoption as sons

- What does this phrase mean to you? Why is it important to know we are sons?

c) Through Jesus Christ

- How does this phrase help and empower us for mission? Discuss some misconceptions friends have about Christianity e.g. It's all about following rules, emotional crutch for the weak...

3) Read Ephesians 5:1 where do you find it difficult to "walk in love"?

Pray for one another to be those that "walk in love".

Tags

Adoption, Adam & Eve, Spiritual Orphans, Predestined, Sons, Love