



Sermon:
Date:

We Are Family
January 28, 2024

I. Introduction

- a. The Book of Ephesians is about who we are in Christ.
- b. Paul's letters are full of prayers. If you personalize these prayers, we will get results. When you pray the word, you pray his will.
- c. Three things that Paul teaches us in Ephesians.
 - i. **Position**
 - ii. **Privilege**
 - iii. **Power**

II. Position

Ephesians 1:1 NKJV

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and **faithful in Christ Jesus:**

a. Your Family

Ephesians 1:2 NKJV

2 Grace to you and peace from God our **Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- i. In the Old Testament, God was only referred to as "God" but never referred to as father. When you are born again, he is more than God, he is the perfect father.
- ii. God started a family.
 1. He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

b. Blessings

Ephesians 1:3 NKJV

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,**

- i. Your blessings are in heavenly places. It's not in heaven the place. It's in the spiritual atmosphere.
- ii. Just because you're a Christian doesn't mean that blessings follow. You have to fight for them.
- iii. In the Old Testament, there was a promised land to the Jewish people. What stood between them and the promised land were giants.
- iv. The devil and demons are in high places as well.
- v. You have to learn to battle to receive what God has for you. There is a demon standing between you and your victory.
- vi. **CS Lewis said "there is no question that God wants us to have his best. The question is do we know how painful it will be to possess them.**
 1. **The pain of discipline.**
 2. **The pain of regret.**

III. The Us Privilege

Ephesians 1:4 NKJV

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,**

- a. Holy and without blame
 - i. Why does he want us to continue to remove sin out of our life? He wants us to see him.
 - ii. The beatitudes: Blessed are those who are pure in heart for they will see God.

Ephesians 1:5-9 NKJV

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. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound **toward us** in all wisdom and **prudence,** ⁹ **having made known to us the mystery of His will,** according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

- b. Us
 - i. When you figure out who you are in Christ, you can endure the pain.
 - ii. When you figure out the purpose of your pain, you will endure the pain.
- c. His good pleasure
 - i. He went after us. He chose us.
- d. Adoption

Ephesians 1:5 NLT

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Romans 8:15 NLT

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he **adopted you as his own children.** Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:23 NLT

And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his **adopted children,** including the new bodies he has promised us.

- i. Adopted is not an inferior sonship position.
- ii. I didn't get to choose who my biological children were. They were born who they were, I didn't get to choose who they were.
- iii. God knew who we were and chose us anyway.
- iv. Roman Culture would allow someone to choose to adopt a child.
 - 1. When a person was adopted, their debts were eliminated, and their past was dissolved from who they previous were.
 - 2. They automatically had the privileges and became the air of the person who adopted in.

e. The Mystery

Ephesians 1:9 NKJV

⁹ **having made known to us the mystery of His will,** according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

i. What is the mystery?

1 Corinthians 10:32 NKJV

³² Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,

1. The church was never mentioned in the Old Testament.
2. The mystery of His will and the battle throughout the beginning of time was the church.
3. The church is the family of God.