

EPHESIANS 1:5-6

In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

- I. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
 - a. Here is our second big word that we need to understand. Much like the word chosen, we need to understand this word without bringing any of our preconceived ideas or paradigms in with it.
 - b. Predestined can have a lot of baggage come with it because it's a big theological word that tends to trigger reactions from people when they hear it.
 - i. Some have been conditioned to hear predestined and it always means something about salvation.
 - ii. Some, because of the intimidating nature of the word, just gloss over and try not to think about the word because it's too much or it's just beyond their scope of reasoning.

- c. Let's just simply look at how the word is used in scripture (6x in 4 passages):

Acts 4:27-28 (NASB) 27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Romans 8:29-30 (NASB) 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

1. **Corinthians 2:7 (NASB)** but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

- d. **Predestined** proorizo (pro-o-re'-zo) -
 - i. to predetermine, decide beforehand
 - ii. in the NT of God decreeing from eternity
 - iii. to foreordain, appoint beforehand
 1. We see that predestined means "to decide or appoint something beforehand."
 2. You and I do this all the time. Whenever we get in our car have we not already "predetermined" our destination? Of course. That's predestination.
 3. Using this same example, if you were talking with someone about something that you had predetermined or predestined that person would most likely ask you "Predestined or predetermined to what?"

4. When we see predestined in scripture, we must ask the same question. We can't let our preconceived ideas influence what we believe predestined is saying in scripture.
- e. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
 - i. "Adoption as sons" - aren't we already His sons and daughters when we place our trust in Christ though? Yes we are, but notice something that Paul points out in Romans:
 - ii. **Romans 8:23 (NASB)** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.
 - iii. **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.
 - f. "Us" - who is the us in the passage that Paul is saying has been predestined?
 - i. The us are the believers he's writing to in this letter, the church or believers in Ephesus.
 - ii. Really, he's continuing his theme from verse 4. The "us" are all of those people included in the prepositional phrase "in Him."
 - iii. **Romans 8:24-25 (NLT)** 24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)
 - g. We are wise to remember salvation in three parts:
 - i. Justification
 - ii. Sanctification
 - iii. Glorification
 - h. These three parts of salvation represent the process of being saved. Each of these portions of salvation have promises associated with them.
 - i. One of the promises of glorification is the promise of a new, glorified body.
 - i. **1 Corinthians 15:50-53 (NASB)** 50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.
 - j. Knowing this, we know that it has predestined or predetermined that anyone whose in Christ is promised a new body. This certainly seems to be something that Paul knows

is going to happen as part of the consummating our adoption process as sons and daughters:

i. **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.

ii. Ephesians 5 - **In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,**

- k. When we stop and make sure that we try to take these words “chosen” and “predestined” in the context they are written in we can see that they don’t need to be intimidating words to gloss over.
- l. They are powerful words that point us to one thing: Jesus Christ and the powerful promises for those in Him.
- m. This chapter in Ephesians is about the magnificent person of Jesus Christ. Reading and understanding the words “chosen” and “predestined” with pre-loaded teachings about them does not elevate the person of Christ, it unfortunately elevates you. This couldn’t have been what Paul was intending.

II. 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

- a. In verse six Paul is punctuating what has been said to this point. As much as it’s a statement of truth it’s also just a heart cry of gratitude from Paul to God.
 - i. **Ephesians 1:6 (NLT)** So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.