

Ephesians Handout

Week Five

1:3 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, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. 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.

Chosen for what? Hagios

Amomos- Num. 6:14

Is Paul saying we are, we should be, or we will be?

2 Cor. 5:21, Heb. 9:13, Heb. 10:14, Phil. 2:14-16, Eph. 5:27

If I'm already chosen and holy, then it doesn't matter what I do, right?

Incentive Col. 3:3

Evidence 1 Jn. 3:10 1 Pt. 2:9

Before Him Coram Deo

In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons

"In love" ?

What's the difference between election and predestination?

What's the beauty of this already?!

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Lk. 1:46

*Cultural Significance.

We are chosen to be holy. We are predestined to be...

Adoption is not a natural relationship. Jn. 1:12

It is an amazing display of love 1 Jn. 3:1

Present benefits. Gal. 4:6, Rom. 8:15

Present status/future fulfillment. Jn. 3:2, Rom. 8:19, 1 Jn. 3:1

Christianity and feminism—

More cool stuff about adoption...

An adopted son

Rom. 8:17

Suffering?? Jn. 17:1

Acts 5:41

An adopted son

An adopted son

Adopted kids

Why did God do it?

6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us (graced/highly favored us with) in the Beloved.
How is adoption praise of His glorious grace?

Beloved: 2 Thes.2:13

Even the messy stuff is glorious 1 Cor. 1:26-31

The blessings so far—

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses/sins, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished (super abundance) on us.

The history of mankind is the history of redemption.

Job 19:25, Ex. 6:6, Ruth, Ps. 19:14, 2 Sam. 7:23, All the prophets

Why is it difficult for us to fully comprehend and appreciate?

Redemption/ransom:

First impediment-

Why so much slavery?

Are we in bondage?

How did we get there?

Does it apply to everyone? Jn. 8:34, Rom. 3:10, Can we fix it? Ps. 49:7

Second impediment-

How big is the debt?

Why can't God ignore it?

What was the price paid?

Why that?

Heb. 9:22

The amazing grace—

Tetelestai, Isa. 43:25, Rom. 4:7-8, Ps. 103:12

For Discussion

This might require some vulnerability. If you aren't ready yet, do this exercise for "a friend."

-What sin plagues you (or your friend) the most.

-What lie are you believing about your relationship with God that leads you to commit this sin—to live like a slave?

-What does scripture tell us we can do to reconnect with our status as redeemed and forgiven?

Isa. 44:22 I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Heb. 9:14 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

--Can you find the trinity in this verse from Hebrews?