

**May 19 & 20, 2018**

## **The Church: Adopted in Jesus Christ**

### **I. Announcements & Prayer**

- 1) **Worship Night** - Tuesday, June 12, at 6:30pm
- 2) New sermon series **"Fear-less"** will start the weekend of May 26th & 27th
- 3) **Prayer Trail** is open! Meet as a group and walk and pray. Bring a lawn chair!
- 4) **Simply for Women** - Mondays 7-8 pm - Bible Study with Jennifer Jackson "Decision Making"
- 5) **Deeper Life** with Pastor Doyle on Sunday night the 21st at 5 pm
- 6) **Small Group Break** - Week of July 1st - 6th

### **II. Ice Breaker Questions**

1. Have you ever adopted a pet? Does anyone have a pet adoption story to share? (If no one fits that category then ask, "what was your first pet's name"?)
2. If money was not an option and you could adopt any pet in the world, what would you adopt as a pet? (monkey, giraffe, zebra)

### **III. Discussion Questions**

#### **1. Read Ephesians 1:1-8 out loud together. (NIV 1984)**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. 5 In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Paul says that we are predestined to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. As a man or a woman in the early church, what would it mean to you when Paul says you are adopted as a son? What if you were poor, a slave or lived on the streets and you owned nothing? How would adoption change your life?

2. How does being adopted paint the picture of grace? (The adoptee is powerless. The adopter has all the power) As an adoptee we still have to choose to receive the love of the adopter. How

have you recently showed your thankfulness to God for your adoption? This is the reason we come to worship.

### 3. Read Ephesians 1:15-19 The Message

That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength! - Paul,

What about Ephesians 1:15-19 touches your heart as a adopted child?

### 4. Read Ephesians 2:4 - 5 (NIV)

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--**it is by grace you have been saved.**

What has God saved you from that you know of? Have you ever tried to save yourself? How did that go? What sin(s) have you lately had to give to the Lord in order that He could help you overcome it?

### 5. Read Ephesians 4:4-5 (NIV)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

In Ephesians 4:4-5, what does it mean to live a life worthy of the Lord according to Paul? Of these four, humility, gentleness, patient, or bearing with one another, which one do you feel is relevant for you today?

6. The last section of Pastor's sermon was about how we were called to work together. In what area of ministry have you been serving? Who have you most recently shared the message that we are saved by grace?

### Prayer of Paul, Ephesians 1:17-18

God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that I may know You better. I ask also that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened in order that I may know the hope You have for me, the riches of the inheritance in Your family.



Pastor Doyle A. Jackson  
5755 Feder Rd.  
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