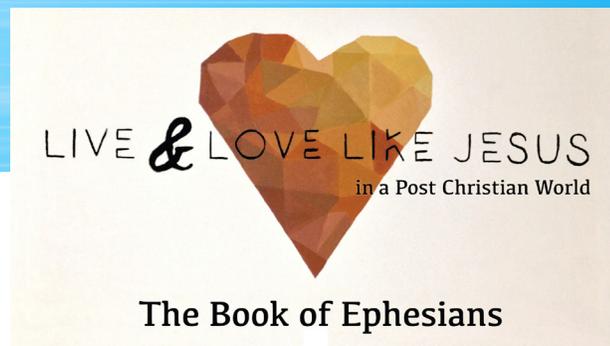


Discussion Questions

October 2, 2022



Ephesians - In Christ, We are Adopted

1. Read Ephesians 1:3-6

Paul says God has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every Spiritual Blessing in Christ. Explain what that means?

What are examples given in these 4 verses of the Blessings Paul is referring to?

2. What is the significance of Paul's continual usage of the phrase "in Christ."

3. James quoted Dr. Snodgrass in saying, "when we focus on Christ being in us we define reality. We lead the way And Christ is about 1" tall or less. But if we realize that we are in Christ, Jesus determines reality and encompasses all we are." Discuss this quote and what it means for Jesus to determine our reality.

4. Reread Ephesians 1:4-5 and then read Romans 8:15-16

What does it mean for us to be adopted to Sonship?

In what ways do slaves live in fear compared to sons?

5. What does it look like to live out of this true reality of Adoption? How can you increasingly live as son or daughter and not a slave?



Ephesians 1:1-6

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, and the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will - to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Dr Klyne Snodgrass - Ephesians

"Every spiritual blessing" has been granted to us in Christ. "Spiritual" does not mean these gifts are "otherworldly," nor does it suggest the spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:3-11, 28. Rather, the expression refers to all that God's Spirit brings to enable life. The letter will unfold all these blessings, but the immediate context mentions election, adoption, grace, forgiveness, revelation, the gospel, and the Holy Spirit. As verses 13-14 show, the Spirit is the primary gift and the source of all the others.

A larger reality exists where Christ is already exalted as Lord, where believers participate in his victory, and where spiritual forces are opposed. Though believers live physically on this earth, they receive spiritual resources and their identity from a higher plane. The spiritual blessings given to Christians are enjoyed in the present life, for they derive from what God has done in Christ in the heavenlies.

John 17:21

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

Ephesians 5:30 - *we are members of his body.*

Ephesians 4:25 - *for we are all parts of the same body.*

Colossians 1:22

Yet now he has reconciled you [y'all] to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you [y'all] into his own presence, and you [y'all] are holy and blameless as you [y'all] stand before him without a single fault.

Romans 8:15 -16

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Galatians 4:6-7

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Tim Keller

It's one thing for the governor to pardon a criminal and to say, "You don't have to be executed." It's another thing for a governor to give that criminal a medal and a great job in his administration. It would be far greater for the governor to adopt this man into his family, give him his own name. The governor makes him an heir of all his wealth. The governor brings him into his table, brings him into his home...

John 1:12

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

J. I. Packer, Knowing God

If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.

John 17:23

[Father] ...you love them as much as you love me.

Communion:

Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24.

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Step 2: Pray a prayers of thanks, thanking Jesus for His body that is broken for us. Then eat the bread together.

Step 3: Read 1 Corinthians 11:25-26.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Step 4: Pray a prayer of Thanks, thanking Jesus for His blood that was shed for us. Then drink the cup together

Step 5: (optional) Pray out as you feel led, in gratitude for being adopted.