

The Lord's Message: Grace: Adopted into the Family of God

Date: October 24, 2021

Where: Tilghman UMC

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 1:3-14

The other day I was listening to the radio and this country music song came on. The song is entitled, "My Boy," by Elvie Shane. The lyrics goes like this:

He ain't got my smile, that don't bother me a bit
He's got somebody else's eyes I'm seein' myself in
I'm holdin' onto every moment, God knows I've missed a few
The day we met, I knew I had some catchin' up to do

He ain't my blood, ain't got my name
But if he did, I'd feel the same
I wasn't there for his first steps
But I ain't missed a ball game yet
And that ain't ever gonna change
I could never walk away
Yeah, he's my son and that's my choice
He ain't my blood, but he's my, he's my boy.

We have been talking for several weeks about Grace, God's Redemption At Christ Expense. We learned that Grace is available to all. God grace is available to every person. It does not matter who you are, God's grace is available to everybody. Jesus died on the cross for everyone. Last week, we learned that God's grace allows everyone to be forgiven of their sin. It does not matter what you have done, you can be forgiven of your sin. Jesus' blood will cover all sins. We need to confess our sins to God and we will be forgiven. Confession heals the soul. This week now that we have learned that this Grace is available to everyone and every sin that is confessed is forgiven, the result is that we are adopted into the family of God.

Let us pray.

Adoption is an important theme in the Bible. Some of the great faithful Biblical people were adopted. Examples are: Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, Hannah gives Samuel to Eli to be adopted into Eli's family, Mordecai adopts Esther, and Joseph adopts Jesus. This theme of adoption is also found in the Old Testament with God adopting the nation of Israel, as God's chosen people.

According to the adoption organization, Lifesong for Orphan, they list 13 famous people that have been adopted. Those names are: Babe Ruth, Eleanor Roosevelt, Steve Jobs, Melissa Gilbert, John Hancock, Michael Oher, Nelson Mandela, Leo Tolstoy, Nancy Reagan, Dave Thomas, Edgar Allen Poe, Gerald Ford, and Simone Biles.

You are adopted. I am adopted. We are all adopted. You might be thinking, “Who has adopted us. The answer is God. Let us open up our Bibles to **Ephesians 1:3** for us to learn why adoption is important. You have received every spiritual blessing that God can give to you. There is no spiritual blessing that you are without. The question that you might be asking is why did you receive these spiritual blessings?

The answer is found in the next verse, **Ephesians 1:4**. God chose you before he created the world. While the world was “formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep,” **Genesis 1:2**. God was thinking of you. God was thinking of you before he created light. God was thinking of you before he divided the waters and created land. God was thinking of you before he made diversity of plants and animals. God was thinking of you before he created everything. That is how important that everyone of us are to God.

So, if we were created by God, then we are already part of God’s family. So why do we need to be adopted by God. The reason is that God created us “to be holy and blameless in His sight.” God created us not to sin. We fell into the temptation of sin. Holy God cannot be around sin. Holy God will destroy sin. God could have destroyed us, but God did not do this. The reason was that God loves us. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son in **Luke 15:11-31**, Jesus tells us that the Father sees the son in the distance. Why does the Father see the son, because the Father is looking for His son. The Father wants to bring the son back into His family. He looking at adopting His Son. If we look at **Ephesians 1:5**, that is what God wants to do for all of us. You might be thinking to yourself, if God knew we were going to fall into sin, then why didn’t God take steps to put up barriers to keep us from falling into sin. I can remember when my children were very young, JoAnn and I went about child proofing our house. We put plastic covers on the electric outlets and locks on cabinets that had cleaning chemicals in them. If God loves us, why didn’t God put barriers to keep us from sinning. The answer is free will. God allows us to make decisions for ourselves. That is the ultimate form of love and trust. Just a sidebar, eventually our children figured out those child proof lock. God loves and trust us to make the right decision.

When we fail and we will all fail at some time, God does not stop loving us. Matter of fact in **Ephesians 1:6**, God “lavished on us.” What does God lavish on us? The answer is redemption through the shed blood of his Son, Jesus, and forgiveness of sins. So, we are redeemed and forgiven, by God’s lavished love on us.

In **Ephesians 1:7-10**, we learned that God is all about unity. There is unity between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God’s wants this unity for all creation. This unity of creation is then brought under the authority and sonship of Christ.

This promise of God is sealed with the Holy Spirit. Let us look at **Ephesians 1:11-14**. We only have to say Yes to God adopting us by opening our hearts and allowing Jesus to come in. We are adopted. We have a wonderful inheritance awaiting us. We become God's daughters and sons. If we have said Yes to God, then we are adopted by God. God is our Heavenly Father. We are His son or daughter. We are all adopted into the family of God. Let us tell everyone, so that they can be adopted into God's family as well. Amen.