

Chosen in Grace

Adopted – Ephesians 3:1-13

The Setup

“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles... I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.”

Ephesians 3:1, 13

Just like Paul, you do not have to stay _____ your circumstances, because you are _____ Christ Jesus.

The Chosen

From the beginning, God’s plan was to bring salvation not just _____ the Jews but _____ the Jews.

“The Lord had said to Abram... ‘I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you... and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’”

Genesis 12:1-3

Just like the Jews, we are blessed to be a _____.

The Mystery

“This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 3:6

_____ **with God’s people**

“...through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel...”

Ephesians 3:6

_____ **of God’s church**

“...members together of one body...”

Ephesians 3:6

_____ **in God’s salvation**

“...and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 3:6

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Questions based on Sermon from May 14, 2023

Getting to Know Me –

1. Did you have a secret hiding place as a child? Where was it and why did you choose it?

2. What personality characteristic did you either inherit or wish you had inherited from your parents?

Digging Deeper

3. What new insight or information did you learn about being adopted into God's family through Sunday's sermon?

4. Read Ephesians 3:1-13 out loud together.

5. Read Ephesians 3:1, 6. Who are the Gentiles? Do you consider yourself a Gentile? In your understanding, how did Jews and Gentiles relate to God differently throughout history?

6. In Ephesians 3:6, Paul unpacks what exactly the mystery is. Read this verse slowly. What are the three elements of the mystery that Paul is referring to?

7. Grace was such an essential concept of Paul's thinking that he began all his letters with a grace greeting and ended each letter with a grace farewell. Why do you think Paul puts so much emphasis on grace? How would you define grace?

8. Read Ephesians 3:2-3, 7-8. What is the significance of a successful man like Paul defining his entire ministry as one of grace? How should this focus on grace impact your life today?

9. Read Genesis 12:1-3 as a backdrop for Ephesians 3:10-11. What is God's "eternal purpose"? What is the role of the church in God's plan?

Where Do I Go from Here?

10. In Ephesians 3:12 how are we invited to approach God? Where does your freedom and confidence come from? How much freedom and confidence do you have today in approaching God?

11. Ephesians 3:1 and 13 reveal Paul's attitude toward his suffering. He mentions it was for their glory. When is a time when you saw God bring his good even out of your suffering?

12. Spend time this week reflecting on Ephesians 3:1-13. Ask God to reveal the work he has prepared in advance for you to do.
 - Praise God that you were adopted by grace and are now an *heir* in God's family, a *member* of his Church, and a *sharer* of the promise of Christ.
 - Pray that God's grace will be evident in your heart and life.
 - Pray for an opportunity to "administer this grace" to others in your life.

Prayer

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the grace you have given to each one of us. We thank you for the freedom and confidence to come before you and ask that you will continue to teach us your ways and help us to administer your grace to those around us. Give us eyes to see and hearts to act for your glory. Amen!

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Ephesians 3:6

Heirs with God’s people

“...through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel...”

Ephesians 3:6

Members of God’s church

“...members together of one body...”

Ephesians 3:6

Sharers in God’s salvation

“...and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

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