

Book	Ephesian – Study 2
Topic	The Grace of God in Election and Predestination
Reference	Ephesians 1:4-7
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Speaker	Dr Peter Ng

PREDESTINATION:

*Ephesians 1:4-6 (ESV) In love 5 he **predestined** us for **adoption** to himself as **sons through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

So we are talking about predestination, election is God choosing whom he will, predestination is God’s determination that it will become his children. So there is predestined that means there is a destiny. A destiny is very-very-very important. In World War II in Hungary there was a Nazi Concentration Camp and it was used to do work on a sewage plant. So sewage plant was there and the people use to get rid of shit every day, it was a horrible-horrible job and all the Jews have to go and do it but they were okay doing the job every day and one day the elites bombed the whole place and all the shit fell everywhere, so no more sewage plant and so the Nazi made the Jewish prisoners do to take a shovel and dig up all the ground, from one part of the camp and dump it on the other side and when they finish it dumping it there then you dig it all back and put it back there again and do the same thing again and again and again and after a couple of weeks one old man started screaming and they beat him to death. Another man tried to run away and a third young man ran screaming to the electrified gate and fried there. Within a few weeks’ dozens of men went mad.

Why do you think they went mad?

If people are placed in a mindless thing, they will eventually lose your mind. That’s why a lot of people suicide which is the number one cause of death in the world. If you don’t have a purpose you don’t have a destiny you will lose your mind because we are created to have a destiny and our destiny is to become the children of God. We have to reflect the father.

*Ephesians 1:4. even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and blameless** before him.*

That is our destiny that we should be living for.

Why did he do this?

We are doing this, so that it praises God. John Piper writes, “*Our holiness and our blamelessness and our love and our sonship are not ends in themselves. They exist for something greater: the praise of the glory of God's grace.*”

When we are converted, when we are changed, when we have a destiny, the destiny is that we should be like God, holy and blameless that is what will bring his purpose to our life.

*John 5:19 (ESV) So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, **but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.***

Here is Jesus, a perfect son, not like today's son who when they reach 13 they want to do their own thing, Jesus is a perfect son because he does whatever the father does, he does. In the old days, a perfect son replicates his father's heart completely. Today, if you are totally opposite your father, people praise you. Jesus is a perfect son, whatever he sees father doing he does. In the old days, a perfect son replicates his father's heart completely. In those days if you are a farmer your son is a farmer. If you are a banker, your son is a banker. There is no such thing as the son doing opposite of what you did. Today, you will never follow what your father did. So therefore we are destined to be like our father. Therefore, when we actually become Christians, Paul writes

*Romans 12:1-2 (ESV) 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present **your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.** 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.***

Which means when you become Christian you need to offer your whole life, so that you become a sacrifice and that sacrifice is that you conform your mind to how God thinks and you do like the son. The son does exactly like the father and that's exactly our destiny.

BASIS OF OUR PREDESTINATION is basically Jesus Christ. We are predestined through Jesus Christ

*Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and **gave himself up for her,** 26 that he might **sanctify her,** having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be **holy and without blemish***

*Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV) But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to **redeem** those who were under the law, so that we might **receive adoption as sons.***

The whole idea of the cross, the ultimate destiny is that we are sons, that is the main thing. So if you look at these two particular verses, it both ends with holy and blameless, exactly the same words in Greek, that is our destiny.

How does he do it?

He does it because of love. He loved us right from the beginning. So therefore in love he actually chose us out of his pleasure of his goodwill, not based on any performance, not based on any intrinsic value in ourselves and he predestined us.

If you look at human adoption, Kristin Chenoweth was a famous star. She was actually adopted when she was young and she actually gave a testimony and she wrote

We weren't abandoned; we were chosen. We were given a chance. I'm not saying it's not hard or that it's easy for people to understand. But it really isn't for the world to understand; it's for the people who are involved. "I know that I came from love, and I know that I have love." In fact, I've always felt this deep desire: that if I were to have a baby, I would adopt. That's the way I would do it, 100 percent

You grow a baby from your tummy, but if you adopt you grow it from heart. That's the difference between adoption.

Bob Kilpatrick told about his father, his father was in an orphanage and every Saturday he would dress up on his best, stand there and all the visitors will come and march by and they will pick every other little boy except him and that destroyed him and he became quite malignant in his personality. Beautiful thing about adoption is that God chooses you because of his love.

So the fatherhood God over creation, heavens and earth, animals and angels but the special when you are adopted in Christ because you are adopted because of love.

THE STEPS IN SALVATION:

The highest step in salvation is regeneration, born again, justification in order to be adopted that is our destiny.

Now the intensity of love because you actually have adoption, Jesus says

*John 17:26 (ESV) I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which **you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.**"*

Which means you are going to share the same kind of love that the father has for the son, Jesus Christ. Now you are an adopted son. Jesus wants you to have the kind of love that is within the triune God, that is amazing.

PRIVILEGES OF ADOPTION:

There are so many privileges, we have intimacy and love. Access to God. All other religions all over the world there is a sense of distance from God, even the Jewish religion has distance from God. You have a tabernacle, you can't go inside, you have to give a sacrifice, only the priest can go to the holy place and the holy of holiest can only go once a year. So there is a sense of distance. So you actually have to pray. You have to give sacrifices, you may have to do all sorts of things like poke things to your tongue, but if you look here in Luke

Luke 11:5-8 (ESV) And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, 6 for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; 7 and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? 8 I tell you,

*though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his **impudence** he will rise and give him whatever he needs.*

So basically this is shameless persistence. With God because you are his son you can actually persist with God because he is your father. There is a complete difference on how you act.

Romans 8:14-16 (ESV) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 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!"

Some people in the past have misinterpreted this "Abba Father" to be Papa or Daddy. Some recent research has shown that the word "Abba" is basically means dearest father. It doesn't mean anything more than that, because in Aramaic all the words they had was just Abba but it is still a term which Jesus used in Mark. Jesus called his father 'Abba'. Now we got a chance to call God Abba.

Jews can never call God by his name, God is so holy, they dare not call him by his name. in the New Testament because of what Jesus has done, you finally call God father. That is a huge difference that adoption makes. So you got intimacy and love, you got access, you got inheritance.

Tim Keller writes, *"The image of "adoption" tells us that our relationship with God is based completely on a legal act by the Father. You don't "win" a father, and you don't "negotiate" for a parent. Adoption is a legal act on the part of the father — it is very expensive and costly only for him. There is nothing the son does to win or earn the status. It is simply received."*

If you look in that time, adoption is a change of status:

- To preserve the family line as they could always foster unwanted child
- But they need a male priest to lead in the pagan worship, so therefore they adopted children.
- All debts are paid off
- Father responsibility for liabilities of the son
- Adoptee became the same person as the adopter.
- Heirs immediately as all family members held property jointly

The moment you are adopted, all the family treasure also belongs to you, you have a share that's the difference and is legally recognized. Many of the Roman Emperors, the people who succeeded them were actually adopted and they don't adopt babies, they actually adopt fully grown man also. So adoption is a very powerful legal status in that time. When you adopt someone, everything your father has becomes yours and we are adopted. The aim is to treat the child as if is your own.

Why are they called sons, even the woman too?

In the olden days all the inheritance goes to the sons, so now Paul is bucking the trend you know, he is calling the woman sons of God, to tell you that adoption brings you right, you are equal absolutely right. Sons of God is a metaphor.

FAMILY LIKENESS

*Romans 8:19-23 (ESV) For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as **we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.***

Ephesians says we are adopted, Romans says we wait for adoption. Everything in the Christian theology has these two things, the already and not yet. So the kingdom of God has come, but the kingdom of God has not yet come. The kingdom of God has come in Jesus Christ but the full consummation of the kingdom is one day. So when Jesus Christ died on the cross, it is like the D-Day, the elite soldiers entered Europe and you know the end is gone, but V-Day is the day when there is final consummation of the victory. So therefore we are adopted already Paul says but there will be a full adoption one day and then you can see that

*Revelation 21:7-8 (ESV) 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be **my son.***

Which means this is born again, justified, legal adoption, here full adoption because of DNA change. When you are in heaven, your DNA will be exactly like Jesus Christ kind of DNA. The body you have will be Jesus kind of body and in heaven you will not be confessing your sin, you will be like the elder brother as it were. So there is a sense in which you are adopted now but there will be a full sense on which you will be fully like the son. In Corinthians, the actual Christians thought that this part is already here, so therefore all the spiritual gifts, miracle, everything they claim, they confused the already and not yet. Therefore, they claim all the healing, the healing comes at the end.

We need to think about our inheritance.

*Romans 8:24-25 (ESV) For in this **hope we were saved.** Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

So therefore when you start thinking about the future, when you start thinking about inheritance, that thinking propels you to live in a manner that will be your eternal destiny. So the hope is very-very important.

DISCIPLINE:

When you have children you always discipline them and here it says,

Hebrews 12:5-8 (ESV) 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not

discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

So if you are sons, God will discipline you. So therefore all of us who are sons and daughters of God will be disciplined, which means the hard things that you go through, personal loss, suffering, pain, illness, are part of the discipline which God institutes in order to make you humble, make you more like your older brother. So therefore don't feel as if you are bitter because you don't understand, is a process in which God is changing you to be more like him.

SECURITY:

If you look at the Olympic Games recently, all of us were enthralled by the 17-year-old girl Chloe Kim, she is the world's best snowboarding woman and very famous. Her father migrated from Korea to California when she was only 4 years old and he only had 100 dollars in his pocket and he sacrificed everything. In the end he kept taking her to the snowfields to just do that and in the end he quit his job, only the wife worked and he didn't work. His fulltime job was to look after Chloe and make sure that she will go up and down the slopes and she will make something that was his dream. As he watched the daughter go up the slopes and Pyeongchang Olympics, he said,

"I was very stressed because everyone was saying Chloe was going to win gold but no one knows the result -- that I cannot control,"

There are so many things in life that we want to do for our children but we don't have control over that, like giving an exam for them. We are just limited in that. We cannot control that. The difference between us and God is that He is also the king. When your father is also the king it makes a big difference, because he controls everything. Not only he controls you, he loves you but he also controls the Olympic Board that's a fact and the difference between us, our adoption is that we are adopted by God, he is our father, he is excited about us winning the medal and yet he is the head of the Olympic Committee that's the difference and that fact should really open our hearts to know that when we are suffering or anything, my father is also the king that's the difference, very powerful testimony.

HOLY SPIRIT:

*Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the **guarantee** of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

Holy Spirit is a guarantee, is given to us.

Galatians 4:6-7 (ESV) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

So for you to be adopted, you must have the spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one that cries Abba father.

REDEMPTION:

Ephesians 1:7-8 (ESV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, & which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

So when you talk about redemption, redemption gives you a word picture of a slave and there is a price to be paid. For you to become sons, a price was paid. Christ paid the price for us. When the prodigal son came back, the older son was very angry, so actually when you come back you are actually taking the share of the elder brother that's why he got very-very upset. So when you come back, it is actually Jesus who pays, is the elder brother's expense.

*Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, **to make propitiation for the sins of the people.** 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

So when we come back as prodigal sons the elder brother pays, the elder brother is Jesus Christ. Some people say, the problem of redemption is God is a moral monster. On one hand, he asks us to forgive, insist we must forgive, on the other hand he demand payment. When it comes to we sinning against him, someone must pay. When someone sin against us, we must forgive. It looks like a double standard. So we need to explain this part. It is as if there is some external justice is acting on God, but actually that is not the case. Actually when you have got sin, every sin has a consequence which is a wrath of God, every sin has a cost. The cost is that you are sinning against an infinite God and so therefore there is infinite suffering, spiritual death for ever and ever and ever and you actually have to pay the cost because the cost is consistent with the nature of God's righteousness. God's righteousness is such that if you break that righteousness, there is a cost, otherwise God has no righteousness. If God says, if you break this you will be punished and you actually break it and he doesn't punish you, what kind of God is that. Everything in life has a cost. For example, if you bang somebody's car then you have to pay. In every forgiveness there is a cost, the only difference is someone got to absorb it. So in this particular case, Jesus Christ absorbs it. We can't just forgive. So there is love and justice on the cross.

*Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to **the riches of his grace**, & which he lavished upon us, in **all wisdom and insight***

God is so wise that he actually gave us all this grace and saved useless people like us, so that if you look in chapter 3,

*Ephesians 3:10 (ESV) so that **through the church the manifold wisdom** of God might now be **made known** to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places*

There is a wider agenda, which means he takes useless people like us and he saves us, transforms us by grace and when he does this everybody else all over the universe, the evil spirits, the angels, everybody is watching and they say God is so clever. That through the church, the manifold wisdom of God might be known through the rulers and authorities in heavenly places. So there is a spiritual realm in which God's glory is displayed because just like Chloe Kim glorifies the father, we the church glorify God when you look at it in the whole realm of all heavenly beings. That is a big

picture of why God saves us. If you don't read Ephesians you don't understand why God saves us, you are only sentimental.

If all my sins are forgiven, why must I continue to repent?

Redemption is a one-time event, so here you actually have three things:

1. Justification is for once and all

Eph 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,

2. Ongoing sin and confession

If that's the case how come there is ongoing confession

1 John 1:9-10 (ESV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

So therefore even though there is justification, our sins are forgiven yet we have to ask for forgiveness and the third thing is that

3. Future forgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV) For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Which means if you forgive others then your father will also forgive you, that means the forgiveness is also into the future. That means there is future sin, future forgiveness, how do all these three things combine together, doesn't make sense. So we have to settle this problem because a lot of us get confused. So the point is.

Justification is a one time thing.

You are forgiven of all past and present sins and the death of Jesus Christ becomes a judicial ground for the forgiveness of future sin, which mean when Jesus died all your debt in the past he paid, all the debt in the present he put 200,000 dollars, all the debt in the future I put another 200,000 in reserve. Because let say, you sin in the future you can dig into the reserve fund and take from there that's what he means. So basically forgiveness of all past and present is given and the death of Jesus Christ is judicial grounds for the forgiveness of future sin. Now when you confess, so therefore God says in Romans

Romans 8:30 (ESV) And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

That means God can see past, present, future at one go. When Jesus Christ died on the cross for you, everything was forgiven at one go and now why are we asking for forgiveness. We ask for ongoing forgiveness of sin and confession because confession is to experience the renewed application of our justification as temporal creatures God applies, Christ work to us by the spirit in time. See God sees everything at one spot, we see everything as today, tomorrow and the future. So the process of forgiveness takes time and part of the process of forgiveness is asking for confession.

When you accept Jesus Christ as Lord and saviour all your sins in the past and present are forgiven and as you keep on confessing that is a method in which you actually say I accept it. If you really accept Jesus Christ as lord and saviour you will continue to confess your sin because there is a process. So therefore because you are a child of God your destiny is to be holy and blameless. So if you are forgiven of your sins in the past and in the present, going to future you should be holy and blameless.

How are you going to be holy and blameless?

By continuing to wash yourself. Imagine you are the beggar in the street, God saves us, cleanse everything, give you new pairs of shoes, give you princely clothes, put you inside the palace, every day you still get dirty. If you are going to act as a prince, you must continually cleanse yourself and act like a prince. So it is exactly why we actually have to confess. So as we confess you have a renewed application of our justification, which means every time you sin you go back to Christ death and claim the blood of Christ that forgave your sin. Keep on digging into that. So each time it brings you to the cross. That is a reason why you are asked for confession.

Future forgiveness:

We are in a covenantal relationship with God, sin strains relationship and confession restores it. We add nothing to Christ perfect death, instead we are reapplying what Christ has done for us to walk in confidence that Christ paid it all. So therefore we are in a relationship with God. When you sin as a Christian you strain that relationship. For example, if we have upset our fathers by messing up. Our fathers never through you out of his home. There are times in which when you sin, there is a strain relationship and what happens with confession, confessions restores your relationship so you walk with confidence in your life. That's why the confession is there, that's why you got this tension of the already and the not yet. Everything because of this tension between the already and the not yet. So therefore that is why you got to confess.

Then somebody says, what happens if you sin. If you say a bad word against your father and then you went in an airplane and crashed before you have time to confess. In that particular case, you will dig back into the hope that Christ died for you. It's the attitude of a confession. Therefore, when you are in a Christian fellowship like this, when you are in small groups, when you are working, you are always confessing because you are headed towards holy place. One day when you die you will be holy and blameless completely, your DNA will be changed, but if you are really a child of God you will exhibit the tendency towards holy and blameless.

You live in the castle, you don't like shit anymore, you don't like dirty things anymore. Confession shows that your DNA has changed and you are slowly moving towards perfection. You love

holiness, you love blamelessness, you love God, but if you stay in the castle and you still like the dirty crap that goes around then I suspect you are not really changed and you don't really care about the sin. That's the heresy of hyper-grace.

Some churches teach that Jesus paid for your sins, yesterday, today and tomorrow, no need to confess, so you live as you like but that's counterfeit Christianity, a real Christian moves towards holiness and blamelessness.

NUTSHELL:

In real life salvation is God choosing us, God calling us, you are born again then you are glorified but in the middle of this is confession. There is a whole journey on which we have to go.