

# Ephesians

Transformed by Grace, Empowered by Peace

## Study 3

### Adoptions as Sons

#### Ephesians 1:5-8

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“Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

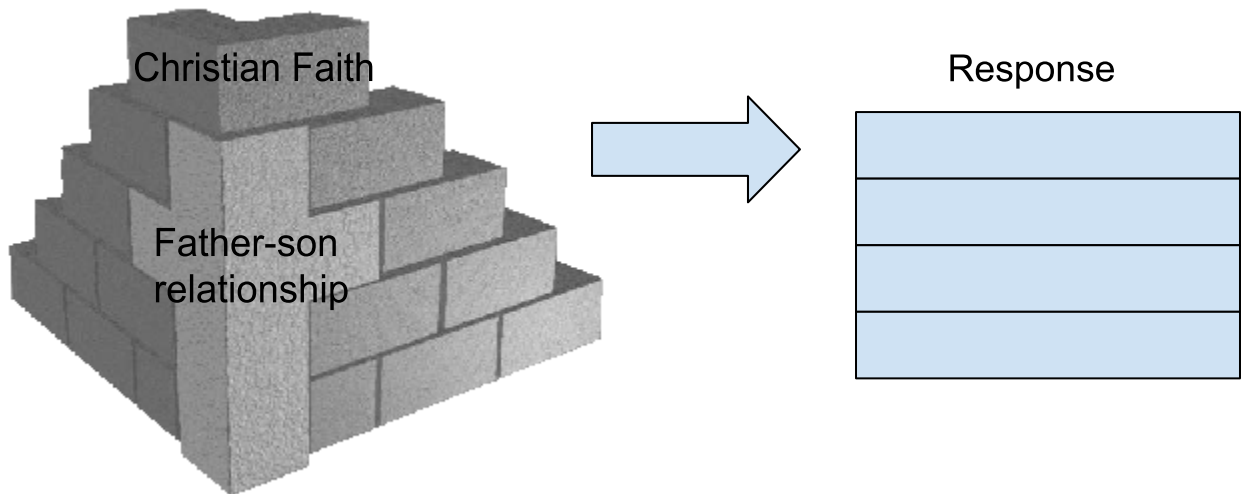
In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,”

#### **A) Introduction and Structure**

<b>Spiritual Blessings</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Election	Eph. 1:4
Predestination	Eph. 1:5
<b>Adoption</b>	Eph. 1:5-6
Redemption	Eph. 1:7-8
Knowledge of His grand plan	Eph. 1:9-10
Inheritance	Eph. 1:11-12
Sealing with Holy Spirit	Eph. 1:13-14

## B) Adoption to Himself as Sons

1. Fill in the blanks. Based on the video lecture, what are the responses of understanding our Father-son relationship we have with God through Christ?



(Worship, Lifestyle, Joy, Ambition)

2. a) Comprehension question. What is our 21st century understanding of sonship?

Our contemporary understanding of sonship is genetic. Sonship that is established by DNA of two parents that are passed down from parent to child.

- b) Comprehension question. What is the Biblical understanding of sonship?

The Biblical idea of sonship is the reflection of nature and character of God.

- c) Comprehension question. The Lord Jesus Christ is the “monogenes” (one of a kind) Son of God. What does this mean? (Refer to Hebrews 1:3)

He is the exact imprint of His nature - that is, the Lord Jesus is the perfect expression of the nature and character of God. He is the exact and perfect expression of who God is.

**d) Reflection question. We have established the Biblical definition of sonship. "Sonship is the reflection of nature and character of God." If we are sons of God, what characteristics should we then reflect? An example is provided below.**

Example:

Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God."

God is the supreme peacemaker and, insofar as we are making peace, we show ourselves to belong to God's family.

- 3. Comprehension question. Does sonship only apply to male Christians? Why or why not?**

#### **C) Privileges of Sonship - Access**

- 4. a) Discussion question. How does being sons of God allow us access into His presence?**

**b) Discussion question. If we have unrestricted access to God our Father, why is it that we do not spend as much time as we should in prayer? What stops us from spending more time in prayer?**

#### **D) Privileges of Sonship - Inheritance**

- 5. Objective question. Based on the video lecture, why is it important for us to understand our spiritual inheritance as Christians? Choose the most appropriate answer.**

- A. So that we can boast to others about how spiritually wealthy we are
- B. So that we can feel spiritually rich
- C. So that we can be strengthened through our sufferings**
- D. So that we can look forward to leave this earth

## E) Privileges of Sonship - Security

### Romans 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

6. Discussion question. Our Father in heaven is also sovereign - we know that all things work together for good to those who love God. As sons of God, how does knowing this help us to trust our Father better?

## F) Privileges of Sonship - His presence (Spirit)

### Romans 8:14

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

7. Discussion question. What does it practically mean to be led by the Spirit of God?

Being led by the Holy Spirit means allowing Him to influence the way we think, feel, and behave. He assures us that we are God’s children and helps us experience God’s love that is shed abroad in our hearts.

## G) Privileges of Sonship - His guidance (Discipline)

### Hebrews 12:6, 11

“For whom the Lord loves He chastens [disciplines], and scourges [chastises] every son whom He receives.”

“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

8. a) Discussion question. Based on Hebrews 12:11, what is the end goal of God’s discipline?

The main purpose for God’s discipline is our righteousness and holiness.

- b) Discussion question. Do you think it is possible for us to mature in holiness/righteousness without discipline?

- c) Reflection question. We sometimes do not understand why we are going through God’s discipline. However, we are not expected to understand. What does God expect of us?

Trust and obey.

#### H) Privileges of Sonship - Family

9. a) Comprehension question. Who constitutes our new family in Christ?

Refer to Mark 10:29-31.

- b) Comprehension question. Instead of the following, what should we do together with our new family in Christ?

Compete with each other => Encourage each other

Be jealous of each other => Be thankful for others’ success

Be joyful for their sorrow => Rejoice with those who are joyful and mourn with those who are sorrowful

- c) Comprehension question. How should we treat them based on 1 Tim. 5:1-2

**10. Reflection question. Has your relationship with your own human family become better or more difficult as a result of your becoming a Christian? If your relationship with your earthly family has become more difficult, how have you found Mark 10:29-30 to be true in your life as a Christian?**

**11. Reflection question. Do you sense any discrimination against Christians of other races or other social or economic positions? Can you understand how the doctrine of adoption should obliterate such distinctions in the church (see Gal. 3:26-28)?**

#### **Takeaway**

- A. Sonship is the reflection of the nature and character of God.**
- B. The privileges of sonship are:**
  - a. Access**
  - b. Inheritance**
  - c. Security**
  - d. His presence (Spirit)**
  - e. His guidance (Discipline)**
  - f. Family**

## Case Study

### Case 1 – Family in Christ

Justin Tan is a young man in his 20's who had just started out working in KL and was looking for a church to worship in. Most of his friends attended churches in the Subang Jaya area which were mainly populated by young people as these churches provided vibrant worship styles and opportunity for dating due to the larger pool of available young ladies. Not to mention similar interests as well.

He came across a few churches which had a wider range of age groups, children, youth, young adults, families and older folk as well.

1. Discussion question. What are the pros and cons for him joining either an exclusively younger church or an intergenerational church? Which will foster the concept of adoption and experience of the family of God more?
2. Discussion question. How can the older people in church begin to adapt and make changes to the church program to make it a family which is more relevant and open to young people?
3. Discussion question. The largest demographic that the church is losing all over the world is the young adult age from 20's to the 30's. It is an urgent problem - how can FBC address this problem as a family?
4. Discussion question. Young people like to be heard and have their views taken into consideration - how can this happen if on the one hand they want to be heard and yet on the other hand they are too busy for leadership because of their careers?

