

A Brand New You
Ephesians 1:3-12
Week of 4.14.19

Read *Ephesians 1:3-12*

Getting Started:

1) Paul says that we have been adopted in Jesus. Do you know anyone who is or has adopted? Is there anything from their story that helps you appreciate Paul's words?

Digging Deeper:

2) In verse 4 Paul says God "predestined" us to be adopted. This "planning" has powerful parallels to the unique act of earthly adoption. Discuss how by contrasting adoption with natural birth.

3) Paul uses "sons" to include men and women. Instead of demeaning women, the label was designed to elevate women. How do you think it might have undermined a culture that denigrated women? What other people groups would the term elevate?

4) In Rome an adopted son became a permanent son, immediately had all the rights of a natural son, and began to learn how to take over the father's estate and carry on his legacy. How is that like our adoption in Christ?

5) Our adoption came at a great price (vss.7). Who or what were we before being adopted that makes our inclusion as God's children unlike all other adoptions?

6) On Sunday Pastor Jake said that forgetting our "sonship" can happen on any given day. Go through the list below and discuss practical ways you might forget that you are a child of God:

- Believing Christianity is an audition instead of adoption.
- Treating God's rules like slaves instead of sons.
- Responding to circumstances as victims instead of heirs.
- Seeing Jesus as an only son instead of an older brother.

Making it Real:

7) Good Friday and Easter is this week. Pray about who you will bring. Pray that the Lord might bring lots of people to himself!