
SERMON NOTES January 30, 2022

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

**Ephesians 1:3-10
From Slavery to Sonship
Pastor Mike**

- I. A celebration of our blessings _____
 - a. God's greatest gift is _____
 - b. We are God's _____ through _____
 - II. To adopt us, God had to first _____
 - a. The meaning of _____
 - b. We were _____ needing to be _____
 - c. Our freedom had to _____
 - d. The price of _____ was _____
 - III. Other blessings _____ by the redemption of _____
 - a. Forgiveness through the _____ of our sins
- Forgiveness isn't _____ wrongs, but _____
- b. We are redeemed from _____ to _____
 - c. Reconciling and _____ all things to _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. One of the main themes of Ephesians is the teaching regarding our identity in Christ. We are adopted by God as his child and receive all the blessings that come with that new identity. But part of our problem in believing this good news is we are stuck in seeing ourselves in the light of our past failure, weakness, abuse, and betrayal.
 - a. In your personal experience, how hard has it been to believe the good news that you are who God says you are in Christ? How have you struggled with this?
 - b. In your experience, has it been harder to believe the good news of your new identity in Christ, or to stop believing the lies about your identity, where you define yourself by past failures, weaknesses, abuse, and betrayals? What is the relationship between these two aspects of this battle?
2. How important is it to truly recognize and remember how lost we were apart from Christ – that we were slaves to sin and death – and to remember the incredibly high cost of our redemption?
 - a. Many professing Christians speak of God's forgiveness as if it were an easy thing for Him to do – many have referred to this as 'cheap grace.' How would a 'cheap grace' view of forgiveness impact our Christian life?
 - b. If you lived with a full daily realization of the extremely high price that God paid for your redemption, how might that impact your life? What does the price God paid to make you his child say about his love for you? How should that impact your life?
3. We live in a culture that stresses the concept of 'forgive and forget,' which in practice usually means bury and ignore. Can you think of a time you tried to resolve an offense through this "forgive and forget" strategy? How effective was it? Did it restore the relationship? Why or why not?
4. How important in true forgiveness is it that we talk about and expose the wrongness and impact of an offense or sin?
 - a. If another person wronged you in a significant manner, could you fully forgive them and restore the relationship by just burying and 'forgetting' the offense? Why or why not?
 - b. It is possible to really know and experience God's forgiveness without first fully acknowledging the extent of our wrong? How important is it that we vocalize the confession of our sin?
5. Paul teaches us that God's ultimate purpose in the gospel is "*unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth*" – to and thus to reconcile and restore all things to their original design. At times we can focus so much on how the Gospel reconciles our relationship with God, that we risk missing God's greater desire.
 - a. In reconciling himself to us, God also desires to reconcile our relationships with other people; If there is someone you are at odds with, does this apply to you? What action to seek reconciliation will you take this week?
 - b. Where and how is God using you as salt and light to restore your part of the world? Whose life is he calling you to be involved with, and bring the healing of the gospel?