

# EPHESIANS SERIES

## 'IN CHRIST JESUS'

### Session Two

#### **ADOPTED**

Ephesians 1:5

In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with his pleasure and will.

*J.I Packer... 'What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God for their Father.'*

#### **1. Need for Adoption**

John 1:12-13

The gift of sonship to God becomes ours, not through being born, but through being born again.

God is the Father of all but not everyone is a child of God.

Sin causes family break up

Luke 15:32 Prodigal son

Galatians 4:4-7 ...to redeem those under the law that we might receive adoption to sonship.

#### **2. The nature of Adoption**

No Hebrew word for adoption, it was a Roman custom.

- Example of grace (initiative of person desiring to adopt)
- Have a new life
  - New name
  - No debts
  - New status

Adoption is the highest privilege that the gospel offers.

Justification is a forensic idea, conceived in terms of law and viewing God as judge.

Adoption is a family idea, conceived in terms of love and viewing God as father.

Difficulties of God being our Father

- Authority
- Human fatherhood
- Too personal/too remote

### 3. **Work of the Holy Spirit**

Romans 8:15-17

Abba – an intimate family word (Aramaic)

The Holy spirit testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Galatians 4:6...God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out Abba, Father.

We can have an absolute assurance.

### 4. **Implications**

- I am a child of God
- God is my Father
- Heaven is my home
- My Saviour is my brother
- Every Christian is my sister/brother