

## **Adopted, forgiven, accepted**

### **Adopted, Forgiven, Accepted: Living as Children of the King**

There is something profoundly reassuring about knowing where you belong. In a world where identity is often shaped by performance, achievement, or the shifting opinions of others, the gospel speaks a deeper and more enduring truth: in Christ we are adopted, forgiven, and accepted as children of the King. This is not merely a comforting idea; it is a spiritual reality that reshapes how we see God, ourselves, and one another.

The apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 1:5 that God “predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.” Adoption is a deliberate act of love. It is not accidental, nor is it reluctant. In Roman culture, which Paul’s readers would have understood well, adoption granted full legal rights, inheritance, and family status. The adopted child was as fully a member of the family as any natural-born son or daughter. In the same way, God has brought us into His family with full privilege and belonging.

To be adopted by God means we are no longer spiritual orphans striving to earn His approval. Instead, we are invited to call Him “Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15), a term of intimacy and trust. This changes our posture in prayer and in daily life. We approach God not with fear of rejection but with confidence in His fatherly love.

Yet adoption is inseparable from forgiveness. Our welcome into God’s family is made possible through the redeeming work of Christ. Ephesians 1:7 reminds us, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” Forgiveness is not God overlooking sin; it is God dealing with sin fully and finally through the cross.

Many believers carry lingering guilt, as though forgiveness were partial or provisional. But Scripture speaks of a complete cleansing. Psalm 103:12 declares that God removes our transgressions “as far as the east is from the west.” When we grasp this, we are freed from the burden of self-condemnation and enabled to walk in newness of life.

Acceptance flows naturally from adoption and forgiveness. Paul’s words in Ephesians 1:6, often translated that we are “accepted in the Beloved,” point to the astonishing reality that we stand before God clothed in Christ’s righteousness. Our acceptance is not based on our spiritual performance but on our union with Jesus.

This truth addresses one of the deepest longings of the human heart—the desire to be fully known and fully loved. In Christ, we are both. God sees us as we are, yet welcomes us completely. The parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11–32) offers a vivid picture: the father runs to embrace the returning son, restores his dignity, and celebrates his homecoming. That is the heart of our Father toward each of us.

Living as children of the King also carries responsibility. Peter exhorts believers, “As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance” (1 Peter 1:14). Our identity calls us to reflect the character of our Father in holiness, love, and humility. We do not pursue obedience to earn acceptance; we obey because we are accepted.

In the life of a church community like Runnymede Christian Fellowship, this shared identity should shape how we relate to one another. If we are all adopted by the same Father, then we are brothers and sisters. Forgiven people extend forgiveness. Accepted people create spaces of welcome. The church becomes a living expression of God’s family on earth.

There will be moments when we feel unworthy or distant. In such times, it is vital to return to the promises of Scripture. Our standing as God’s children does not fluctuate with our feelings. It rests securely on His grace. As John writes, “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are” (1 John 3:1).

May we live daily in the freedom of being adopted, the joy of being forgiven, and the confidence of being accepted. And as we do, may our lives bear witness to the gracious King who has welcomed us into His family forever.

### **Questions**

Ephesians 1:5 — “He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ...”  
*How does knowing you are intentionally adopted by God shape your sense of identity this week?*

Romans 8:15 — “You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”  
*What might change in your prayer life if you approached God with the confidence of a loved child?*

Ephesians 1:7 — “In him we have redemption... the forgiveness of sins.”  
*Is there any guilt you need to release in light of Christ’s complete forgiveness?*

1 John 3:1 — “See what great love the Father has lavished on us...”  
*Where do you most need to believe that you are fully loved and accepted by God?*

1 Peter 1:14 — “As obedient children, do not conform...”  
*What is one practical way you can reflect your Father’s character in daily life?*