SERMON NOTES

mars hill
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Series: It's A Family Reunion

Sunday, February 6, 2011

Pastor Joseph Ardayfio

IF YOU WOULD LIKE AN AUDIO COPY OF THE MESSAGE OR WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE MESSAGE FURTHER, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT US AT MEDIA@MARSHILLFELLOWSHIP.COM

It's A Family Reunion :: "restoring our identity in Christ"

PART IV: HE IS OUR FATHER!
📖 SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 1:3-6

key theme: One of the spiritual blessings that we have in Christ is that God has adopted us as sons and daughters so that we might have the privilege, benefit and responsibility of divine sonship.

1) The significance of adoption and divine sonship is only recognized when we realize the immense change from being an outsider, without any family, privileges, benefits, stability, or nurturing, to being adopted into a new family.

2) In the NT, while adoption included the act of taking an outsider and placing them in a family, it also referred to the official act of a Father who bestowed the status of full adulthood on a son of minor status.
   a. There are 3 levels of relationship: slave – child - son
   b. Adoption (sonship) happens at the moment that we are born into the family of God, simultaneous with regeneration and justification.

3) *Adoption give us the PRIVILEGE on sonship.*
   a. Privileges are the gift of God, not the result of human merit.
   b. As sons and daughters of God, the greatest privileges that we have is ACCESS + INTIMACY with our heavenly Father.
   c. Sin blocks access into God's holy presence, but Jesus brings access to the Father. [Ephesians 2:14-19; 3:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-23]
   d. We need to return to the place in which we were awestruck to be in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

4) *Adoption gives us the BENEFITS of sonship.*
   a. The benefit of being God's children includes God's Providence, Purpose, Protection, Provision and Perfection.

5) *Adoption gives us the RESPONSIBILITY of sonship.*