

Ephesians: God's New Community
"Adopted into God's Family" (Ephesians 1:1-14)

1. God is community

The trinity – the perfect community of love:

- Father (v.2, 3)
- Son – Jesus Christ (v.2, 3, 5, 9, 10)
- Holy Spirit (v.13)

2. God has adopted us into His family through Jesus

The Father chose us

- Chosen (v.4, 11)
- Predestined for adoption (v.5, 11)

Jesus has saved us

- Redemption through his blood (v.7)
- Forgiveness of sins (v.7)

3. God blesses His children with every spiritual blessing

God has “blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (v.3)

‘In Christ’ = one with him

- In Christ we are “holy and blameless in his (God's) sight” (v.4)
- In Christ we have “adoption to sonship” (v.5)
- In Christ we have been sealed with “the promised Holy Spirit” (v.13)

How do we respond?

- Praise God whose glory is revealed to us! (v.3, 6, 12, 14)
- Accept God's offer of redemption, forgiveness & adoption, and experience all His spiritual blessings in Christ!

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Digging Deeper notes for personal or group reflection

God is community

Why is it important to think of a God of love being Three in One?

Where else is the trinity referred to in the Bible? And can you think of places in Scripture where one person of the trinity honours another?

God has adopted us into His family through Jesus

What difference should it make to our security as Christians to know that *God has chosen us* in Christ?

How did God restore our relationship with Him? Have you accepted Jesus' sacrifice to bring you back to God?

God blesses His children with every spiritual blessing

What blessings from God are you reminded about in these verses?

If you are a Christian, what difference has it made to your life in being adopted into God's family through Jesus?

Paul is overflowing with praise to God because of what he has in Christ. Are you a 'praising person' at the moment? Why/why not? How can you keep the blessings of God through Jesus *at the centre of your life*? What difference would it make to your everyday experience if you did?