

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

ADOPTED. “God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love.” (Ephesians 1:5, CEB). St. Paul’s use of the word *ADOPTED* offers an additional theological insight to our faith learning/understanding. As Christians we have been taught that God created each one of us and therefore we have “direct” lineage to God as our spiritual parent. It also means that we are created in God’s image, *Imago Dei*. As God’s children we are given responsibility to be earth keepers and even co-creators with God, responsible for its care, stewardship and protection. Creation is not ours alone as our personal property. God’s call for us to “*have dominion*” over it is not a call for gratification but oversight and protecting the creation.

Paul’s use of “*ADOPTED*” expands our relationship to God. Many adopted children like to say they were “*chosen*” by their parents to be part of a family. Yes, we are God’s family by birth, but Paul’s words remind us that God also chooses us in love to be God’s sons and daughters. In spite of our negligence or rejection of God at times, God still chooses us as sons and daughters in covenant together no matter what happens in our lives.

Paul also writes that we have an “*inheritance*” (vs. 14), shared out of God’s amazing grace that sets us free from all that would destroy life. We are bound (held together) always to be God’s children. We are God’s family both by birth and *ADOPTION*. It is a double seal of approval. It does not end there: we are called to embrace all God’s children as our family, too. No special privileges, no special advantages, no more elitism, just love, grace, forgiveness and hope for one and all. God embraces us extravagantly, even when our free-will makes a mess of living life abundantly. We no longer are strangers to God or one another, for God gives us an identity that affirms in us love that never ends. God does not create junk. Remember that you are a child of God by birth and *ADOPTION*. To God be the glory forever. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS*.