

Ephesians 1:3-10

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”

Complete Acceptance

In a day when business operates on the principle of ‘profit at all costs’ and human pursuit is ‘pleasure by all means,’ people become the means to those ends and therefore people become expendable. At work, in the community, even in the home, if performance is below expectations, people are replaced. There is very little effort made to develop meaningful relationships that give rather than take. As a result many today who have “been rejected” suffer from a deep sense of failure and overwhelming loneliness. So much so that despair settles upon the heart.

Into this threatening environment of uncertainty stands the wonderful truth that God, who has the highest standards (being perfect in all things), bids imperfect man to feast at His dinner table, join his family and be part of His plan. This invitation is extended to man unconditionally because of the potential relationship that all who believe in Christ as Savior enjoy. It is a relationship anchored in God’s grace “by which he made us accepted in the beloved.” because “In Him we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” (Ephesians 1:6-7).

Jesus demonstrated this grace time after time as He lived among His created beings. He welcomed the prostitutes, the thieves, the social outcasts whose diseases marked them unfit and rejected. Christ extended his care to the sorrowing, to the shamed, to the hungry. He took time to minister to the weak as well as the bold, to the poor as well as the rich. Although he was “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” as he saw human suffering resulting from original sin, he rejected only those who rejected him. Although he “came unto his own and His own did not receive him” he persisted in his ministry in the face of hate and threat. Finally, he offered himself as the sacrifice for sin and yielded to the horrors of separation from God as he died on Calvary’s cross. All this he did in order to provide a means for man to find forgiveness from sin and acceptance into God’s own family.

She was a grotesque figure of a child, rescued from a house fire that took the lives of her family. Scarred for life, she was left in the care of an orphanage already crowded with children. What chance would she have among so many “beautiful” children to be adopted? Nevertheless the day came when a couple approached the orphanage with this unusual request, “We are here to adopt a child that no one else wants.” This couple had so much love to give that they knew any human barrier to relationship would be dissolved by their love. And so it did. That couple adopted and loved this child deeper than any parent toward their own flesh and blood children. That little girl grew to a lovely, successful woman because she was knew complete acceptance. So it is with the child of God. To understand complete acceptance from God is to find the confidence to accept self and the joy to delight in life.

What is my response:
