

From a Child's Perspective **Ephesians 1:3-14**

How much does a child/newborn understand about the grace of God?

What role does a child play in their own baptism?

What does a child know about their own identity, purpose & future?

A child is not self-aware or self-sufficient, yet Jesus commends their faith!

Luke 18:17 – *“Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”* To receive, is all that a child knows to do!

This is how admittance into God's Kingdom works according to Jesus! If you think you can earn it, you can't! If you think you can will it, you won't! If you think your cooperation is required, it's not! Faith is a gift that is received!

Like a loving parent, God our Father supplies all that is needed for us! Our salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone & to God be the glory alone!

This is God's gospel promise to His people! In baptism we see a visual picture of the people of God coming before Him with open hands and child-like faith to receive from Him His promises!

The voice that speaks in baptism, the action that is taking place, and the promise that is being claimed all originate with God!

And no matter where we are, just like the words of the song we sang, God's grace will find us & keep us tethered to Him forever because of His promise!

A child's identity, purpose & future are tied to his/her connection with mom & dad! Example – Daddy's girl, Stay close to me, Go wherever I go!

Doesn't that sound like who we are to be in relation to our heavenly Father?

And just as our children grow, mature, & transform within the context of that relationship with us, so too we grow, mature and transform in faith by being in that kind of relationship with our God, through Jesus Christ!

This new sermon series is titled “Who Are We?” If you look on our website for the answer, you will find that we are a *“church/family/people where the love of Jesus is transforming lives!”* Transformation shapes our identity!

& this transformation happens, not because of who we are but because of who He is & the promise He makes to be our God & be at work in/thru us!

God provides everything we need - our identity, our purpose & our future!
We are only to receive Him & His promises like a child on their baptism day!

In doing so, we receive what Ephesians 1:3-14 declares to be ours in Christ

- **Vs. 3** - *“Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”* – We receive a comprehensive, all-inclusive, & never-ending gift in Jesus Christ!
- **Vs. 4** - *“He chose us in him before the foundation of the world”* – God chose us before we were even born! How does that shape identity?
- **Vs. 5** - *“He predestined us for adoption as sons & daughters”* – Being accepted into God's family, adopted as His own children, & made co-heirs with Christ is the most incredible blessing one could ever ask for!
- **Vs. 7** - *“We have redemption through his blood”* – God didn't just receive us “as is”, He redeems us to be as we ought to be - His image bearers – transformed/conformed more and more into Christ's image!
- **Vs. 7** - *“Forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace”* – God's unmerited favor comes at great expense to Jesus, but it is extended freely to us!
- **Vs. 9** - *“He is making known to us the mystery of his will”* – Our new identity gives us purpose – to bring glory to God & to enjoy Him forever!
- **Vs. 11** - *“In him we have obtained an inheritance”* – We have a glorious future because of what Christ earned & obtained for us!
- **Vs. 13** - *“Sealed with the promised Holy Spirit”* – God's always with us & He ensures our eternal identity & future with the promise of His Spirit!
- & God not only gives us a guarantee, He Himself is the “guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it” – **Vs. 14.**

You've heard it said to “count your blessings”, well count them if you can!
God's eternal blessings towards us overflow, & that's what brings us hope today & every day! All of God's promises are truly “yes & amen” in Christ!

Let us take the posture of a baptized infant, & then live in response as we begin to comprehend all that God has promised us & all that He has done!

From a Child's Perspective Ephesians 1:3-14

How much does a child/newborn understand about the _____?

What role does a child play in their own baptism?

What does a child know about their own identity, purpose & future?

A child is not self-aware or self-sufficient, yet Jesus commends their _____

Luke 18:17 – *“Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”* To receive, is all that a child knows to do!

This is how admittance into God's Kingdom works according to Jesus! If you think you can _____, you can't! If you think you _____ it, you won't! If you think your _____ is required, it's not! Faith is a gift that is received!

Like a loving parent, God our Father supplies all that is needed for us! Our salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone & to God be the glory alone!

This is God's gospel promise to His people! In _____ we see a visual picture of the people of God coming before Him with open hands and child-like faith to receive from Him His promises!

The voice that speaks in baptism, the action that is taking place, and the promise that is being claimed all originate with God!

And no matter where we are, just like the words of the song we sang, God's grace will find us & keep us _____ to Him forever because of His promise!

A child's identity, purpose & future are tied to his/her connection with mom & dad! Example – Daddy's girl, Stay close to me, Go wherever I go!

Doesn't that sound like who we are to be in relation to our _____?

And just as our children grow, mature, & transform within the context of that relationship with us, so too we grow, mature and transform in faith by being in that kind of relationship with our God, through Jesus Christ!

This new sermon series is titled “_____” If you look on our website for the answer, you will find that we are a “*church/family/people where the love of Jesus is transforming lives!*” Transformation shapes our identity!

& this transformation happens, not because of who we are but because of who He is & the promise He makes to be our God & be at work in/thru us!

God provides _____ we need - our identity, our purpose & our future! We are only to receive Him & His promises like a child on their baptism day!

In doing so, we receive what Ephesians 1:3-14 declares to be ours in Christ

- **Vs. 3** - *“Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”* – We receive a comprehensive, all-inclusive, & never-ending gift in Jesus Christ!
- **Vs. 4** - *“He chose us in him before the foundation of the world”* – God chose us before we were even _____! How does that shape identity?
- **Vs. 5** - *“He predestined us for adoption as sons & daughters”* – Being accepted into God's family, adopted as His own children, & made co-heirs with Christ is the most incredible blessing one could ever ask for!
- **Vs. 7** - *“We have redemption through his blood”* – God didn't just receive us “as is”, He redeems us to be as we _____ - His image bearers – transformed/conformed more and more into Christ's image!
- **Vs. 7** - *“Forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace”* – God's unmerited favor comes at great expense to Jesus, but it is extended freely to us!
- **Vs. 9** - *“He is making known to us the mystery of his will”* – Our new identity gives us _____ – to bring glory to God & to enjoy Him forever!
- **Vs. 11** - *“In him we have obtained an inheritance”* – We have a glorious _____ because of what Christ earned & obtained for us!
- **Vs. 13** - *“Sealed with the promised Holy Spirit”* – God's always with us & He ensures our eternal identity & future with the promise of His Spirit!
- & God not only gives us a guarantee, He Himself is the **“guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it”** – Vs. 14.

You've heard it said to “_____”, well count them if you can! God's eternal blessings towards us overflow, & that's what brings us hope today & every day! All of God's promises are truly “yes & amen” in Christ!

Let us take the posture of a baptized infant, & then live in response as we begin to comprehend all that God has promised us & all that He has done!