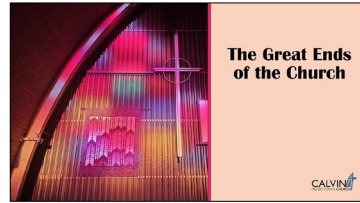


Sheltering and Nurturing God's Children

Ephesians 1:3–23

Emily Mitchell
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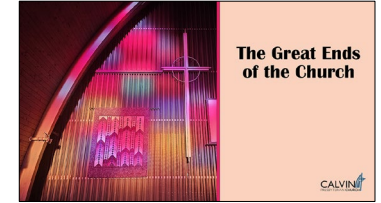


NOTES

Sheltering and Nurturing God's Children

Ephesians 1:3–23

Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*



- Reread Ephesians 1:3–23, ideally in several translations. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- In Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of verse 5 in *The Message*, it says, "Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)" In the NIV translation, it says, "in love he predestined us for adoption." When you hear the phrase predestination, what questions arise for you? In the context of this passage, what consolations arise when you contemplate that God intentionally and lovingly made a decision to adopt you?
- What are differences between bearing the image of God (all of humanity) and becoming a child of God through adoption (those who are in Christ)? What blessings and responsibilities do Christians have as the children of God based on your reading of Ephesians 1?
- Tell a story of when you were sheltered by the church or fellow Christians.
- Tell a story of how your faith in Jesus has been nurtured by the church or fellow Christians.
- Tell a story of when you've experienced spiritual fellowship. (As a note: spiritual fellowship is not just coffee on the patio – it's about being friends in Christ, and it can't be assumed: it must be worked on, doing life together.)
- Spend some time in prayer, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance in showing you new ways that you can step into "a praising and glorious life," in which you are participating in the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship/maturation of God's children.