



**SERIES: Ephesians**  
**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**  
**Monday, January 4, 2021**  
**Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-5**  
**TITLE: Never Really Alone**

Coming into a family through marriage is pretty unique. Suddenly you are part of a family you never knew, and in some cases, you never wanted. Instantly, you are grafted in, but it often takes time to feel the fullness of that relationship. Now, not everyone will experience this bonding and grafting in our earthly families. But for everyone who is born-again, you become part of God's *spiritual* family. Coming into the family of God is a blessing with considerable value, especially in difficult seasons like this.

Listen to the Apostle Paul's words on our spiritual adoption:

*"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. <sup>4</sup> Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. <sup>5</sup> God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." Ephesians 1:3-5, NLT*

In this season of isolation, you can feel pretty alone. We feel the distance from our coworkers, our friends, and our loved ones. But you can feel alone, even if the season of COVID isn't the issue. Dysfunctional families, unhealthy work cultures, difficult neighbors, or the transition from a church, can lead us all to that feeling of loneliness. If this is you, Paul reminds you that with God, through His Son, Jesus, we have every spiritual blessing.

What does that mean? God has a bank account with no limit and no restrictions. You see, God's blessings are spiritual, mental, physical, and practical for daily living. God's gracious provision is not just promised; it is possessed. And according to Paul, for reasons we will never know, God chose us before the universe began. Well, we may not know all the reasons, but we do know that God chooses us for His glory, according to verse 6.

But when He chose us, he decided in advance to adopt us as sons and daughters - to graft us into His heavenly family. And do you know what I love about this? Paul says, to choose us and make us part of the family, gave God great pleasure. When He sees you, He smiles. When He thinks of you, He says, "Wow. That's My kid. Amazing."

We may be facing challenges in seeing each other because of COVID. You may be feeling alienated from your family because of past issues. You may feel underappreciated at work. You may feel rejected by your neighbors. But friend, God loves you. He sees you, and He smiles. And He makes you part of a heavenly family. This heavenly family is your true family. You may

have blood relatives. You may have in-laws, but God says, "This is your ultimate family, because you get to love and help each other, today and for all eternity."

My challenge for you today is to look at God and smile back. God appreciates you. He celebrates you. He is proud of you. He says, "You're never alone. I am always with you." You have family around the world too. So reach out to a new believer or a believer from church or your past. Someone you know is probably feeling alone as well. Reach out to them. Let them know you're there for them.