

# SERMON DISCUSSION

## QUESTIONS

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

### Orphan Sunday - Pastor Connor Neigenfind

#### WARM-UP

1. Pastor Connor opened with Scripture – 1 Timothy 2:1-4. In this passage, Paul is writing to his young disciple and protégé, Timothy, as he pastors the church in Ephesus, facing many issues, including what it means to be a caring church. What does this passage say to you? Is it relevant for our times as well? If so, how? What does Paul say that the workings of verses one and two will result in?

#### DIGGING DEEPER

*The Christian Alliance for Orphans has designated Sunday as 'Orphan Sunday' to bring worldwide awareness to the concern of orphans and foster children. Pastor Connor shared the tragic and tremendous situation with us, recounting the needs of millions of orphans worldwide and thousands of foster children in our own country, state, and community.*

#### OUR SPIRITUAL ADOPTION – READ: Ephesians 1:1-6

2. In this letter from Paul to the church in Ephesus (and likely other nearby churches), as believers, we have come to the Father through Jesus in a 'spiritual adoption'. In verse three, what does Paul say about blessings and being blessed? In spiritual adoption, where do our blessings come from?
3. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. This passage describes our state as 'spiritual orphans'. What are the key notions or characteristics you take from this passage about our position before our adoption? Is it possible that we can work this all out on our own for the good?
4. Back to Ephesians 1 – in verses four and five, what is being fulfilled by our adoption as sons and daughters? And how does this adoption happen? Who gets the glory for our adoption? Why?

#### THE RESULTS OF OUR SPIRITUAL ADOPTION – READ: Ephesians 2:4-9

5. To begin with, what does this entire passage say to you – what are your key takeaways? In verse four, what is our spiritual adoption rooted in? What does that mean to your life? What might that mean in the lives of children today who are orphaned or in a foster home?
6. In this passage, our spiritual adoption is characterized three times by the same word – what is that word? And what does that mean? Again, in the lives of children in need of a family, what does this word convey relative to their need?

7. In verse eight, with spiritual adoption, what saves us – brings us to right and eternal relationship with the Father? At the end of the verse, what's the nature of God's adoption of us? What implications does this have for the nature of the adoption?
8. Read James 1:27. What does James indicate the results of our spiritual adoption should be? Pastor Connor asked us this question: "Are we going to live out our identity as adopted children of God to those in need, or just be grateful for our adoption?" How do we respond, either individually or collectively?
9. As Connor and Claire shared, there are many ways for any of us to be involved, to share our identity as 'adopted children' and to help those orphaned children who have real and presents needs, both physical, emotional and spiritual. What are some of the ways they described? What are, or might be, ways that speak to your heart?

## **PRAYER**

*As this need for orphaned and foster children comes to us, pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal to you new or further ways that you can be involved, including as part of our own EAC Every Child Initiative. Pray that the church as a whole can muster the answer for the orphan crisis. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to respond to His call to you to serve and share the most vulnerable among us.*

*In case you missed the service, here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:*

<http://edgewateralliance.org/media/sermon-videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/edgewateralliance/>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQTWUv1FD\\_qsUJUZn93kw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQTWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw)