

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

09/23/17 - The Spirit, Our Guarantee

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Ephesians 1:1-14

Ephesians 1 declares that God decided before creation that humanity would be "predestined . . . for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ" (v. 5). By God's gift of grace (v. 7), these *adopted* children have received redemption through the death of Jesus Christ. Further, they have been "marked in him with a seal," the presence of the "promised" Holy Spirit (v. 13), who is our *guarantee* of the inheritance God has promised to them (v. 14).

Adoption plays a major role in my family. My father was adopted as an infant, and I have two adopted grandchildren. Recently, my (adopted) granddaughter summed up her experience by saying that adoption has taught her real love.

While parental adoption gives a child a name and a future, God's adoption gives us the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is with us until the day of redemption (v. 14). This passage teaches that *adoption* is not an iron-clad guarantee of salvation, but that the work that began in Christ before creation will be completed in the day of redemption (see 1 Corinthians 15:20-28).

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