

Principles of Spiritual Growth:



The Principle of Acceptance

November 20, 2011

Text: Ephesians 1:3-14

***Applying the Bible to
Everyday Life***

One of our most...



⌘...powerful “felt
needs” is the
“need” to be
accepted

The explosive...



⌘ ...growth of
Facebook with all of
its “**friends**” is a
testimony to that
fact

The fact that...

✂... **“texting”** has
given way to a new
thing called
“sexting” is further
proof.

The long and the...



⌘...short of the matter
is that we
desperately want
people to think well
of us and to like us..

We want to wear...

⌘...what the cool people are wearing, we want to live where the cool people are living, we want to do what the cool people are doing because *that makes us cool.*

Why are we...



⌘...experiencing this
epidemic of people
fearing

disenfranchisement?

The problem can...



⌘ ...be traced back to the *breakdown* in the home. It is no longer a safe, nurturing and affirming place.

Knowing the...



⌘ ...problem is only
half a loaf. What is
the **solution**?

Ephesians 1:3-14...



✂...is perhaps one of the most helpful passages in all of Scripture when we are dealing with *thoughts* and *feelings* of rejection.

The Principle Of Acceptance

God *accepts* us just *as we are* and He works in us to make us just what He wants us to be.

We know that we are
accepted...

...by the Father

because He blessed

us with every spiritual

blessing

Ephesians 1:3



⌘ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has *blessed us* with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

**We know that we
are accepted...**

**...by *the Father*
because He *chose* us
before the world was
created.**

Ephesians 1:4



✂...just as He **chose** us
in Him before the
foundation of the
world, that we would
be holy and blameless
before Him.

The Doctrine of Election



- ⌘ **God's choosing you had nothing to do with you. He did not choose you because He knew that you would one day choose Him**
- ⌘ **God chose you and that made it certain that when the opportunity was presented, you would believe**

**We know that we
are accepted...**

**...by the Father
because He adopted
us as sons and
daughters**

Ephesians 1:5-6



✚ ...In love He *predestined* us to *adoption* as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He *freely bestowed* on us in the Beloved.

Romans 8:29



⌘...For those whom He *foreknew*, He also *predestined to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

Key Observation



⌘ If we are to understand the doctrine of *predestination*, we must also understand the doctrine of *foreknowledge*.

Foreknowledge...



⌘...is God's sovereign,
distinguishing love

Foreknowledge

- ⌘ God chooses to be in relationship with those that He foreknows
- ⌘ Foreknowledge is never about events...always about people

Predestination



⌘ God *decides* or *ordains* what will become of those He chooses to set His electing love upon.

**We know that we
are accepted...**

**...by *the Son* because
He *redeemed* us with
His own blood**

Ephesians 1:7-8



⌘ In Him we have
redemption through His
blood, the **forgiveness** of
our trespasses, according
to the riches of His **grace**
which He lavished on us.

**We know that we
are accepted...**

**...by *the Son* because
He gave us an
*inheritance***

Our inheritance...



✂...is so certain that
Paul speaks of it as if
it has already happen.

Ephesians 1:11-12



⌘ In Him also we have obtained an *inheritance*, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

**We know that we
are accepted...**

**...by *the Holy Spirit*
because He *sealed us*
*until the day of final
redemption***

Ephesians 1:13-14



⌘ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were ***sealed*** in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Application



⌘ You are
accepted in the
Beloved. You
need to *accept it.*

Application



⌘ You are
precious in the
sight of God.
Appreciate it.

Application



⌘ You are

*abundantly
blessed.*

Acknowledge it.