

Weekly Devotional
March 26, 2020

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:4-6 ESV)

Have you ever been separated from friends or family for an extended period of time? Maybe you're a military kid, and you couldn't see your mom or dad for six to 12 months while they were on deployment. Or maybe your grandparents have retired to another state. Or you didn't see any of your friends over winter break. Of course, our current COVID-19 lockdown has all of us feeling distanced. Yes, we can video chat through apps like Facebook Messenger, Zoom, and Google Hangouts. We can even FaceTime on our phones! But it's not quite the same, is it?

Now, more than ever, you're probably sensing a longing to gather with people face to face, like you used to. Family gatherings, school, clubs, sports teams, youth group, church, or even just a hangout with a best friend at your favorite coffee shop—we all miss our circles of friends and loved ones.

It reminds us that separation is a terrible thing. And God knows that very well. When Adam and Eve were first created, they enjoyed a beautifully unspoiled relationship with God. But when sin came—together with its curses—mankind became helplessly separated from God. We're not talking about a 14-day quarantine here; we're talking about a separation we could never bridge. Ever. Let that sink in. Yet God, in his great mercy and grace, determined to restore the helpless to himself. The eternal Son took on flesh (John 1:14). He went to the cross as our sin offering (Hebrews 13:10-12), and then he rose from his grave (1 Thessalonians 4:14). Through all that the Lord has done for us, eternal separation has been defeated!

As we approach Easter, let's allow the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to assure us of the relational restoration we now have with God. Especially in a time when we all feel the sorrowful effect of social distancing, let's be encouraged by God's defeat of eternal separation. He has restored us not just as his creatures. More than that, he has restored us as adopted children... to the praise of his glorious grace!

Questions:

- Who are some of the people you miss seeing in person as we all continue to shelter in place? Why do you think you miss seeing them?
- How can you still "visit" people despite social distancing? Is there anyone you can think of who could be encouraged by a "visit" from you this week?
- In what ways are you encouraged by knowing God has defeated eternal separation on your behalf? How does your adoption as a child of God help you as you continue living in temporary separation from friends and loved ones?
- Spend some time thanking God for his glorious grace.