

ARE YOU GOD-QUALIFIED?

Colossians 1:12-14

I. The Father

Verse 12: Who is the Father?

In a general or broad sense, God is the Father of every human being, including you. God is the Maker and Creator of all that you see and know... and beyond.

I. The Father

Qualified (*hikanosanti*) = to make fit, sufficient, prepared, or adequate

God has **fitted** or **equipped** us in Jesus with all we need to gain the heavenly inheritance of saints in Light or, literally, the holy ones before God.

By putting you in spiritual union with Jesus by grace through faith, God the Father made you sufficient to live in holiness before Him.

The fact that you have to be *qualified* means that at one time you were **disqualified**.

You were unfit, ineligible, banned, excluded, separated, insufficient, or unentitled.

II. The Father's Qualified Children

Those God has qualified, He has adopted. Paul doesn't mention adoption by name, but he speaks of an inheritance.

What is this inheritance which God has shared with His children?

Everything God *is* and *owns* — all the riches of His favor, His Person, His love, and all the wealth of His entire Kingdom.

III. The Father's Delivered Children

In verse 13, darkness and light are contrasted:

- darkness symbolizes sin, rebellion, bondage, wickedness, and death.
- light symbolizes purity, salvation, freedom, and life.

The darkness of your sin hides the truth from you and will keep you stumbling through life.

We are all afraid of the dark.

IV. The Father's Transferred Children

Those God has transferred, He has transformed.

What is the purpose of this Fatherly authority over our lives?

So that everything Jesus inherits, we inherit.

IV. The Father's Transferred Children

Your greatest need is God's forgiveness.

Redemption refers to the purchased ones.

Purchased by whom?

The Father.

For whom?

Sinners.

When?

On the cross.

Those in bondage to sin are freed from sin's penalty by the ransom price of Jesus' life.

V. The Father's Forgiven Children

“If anybody asks you, ‘What is the distinguishing mark of Christian doctrine, Christian theology? What is the heart and soul of the gospel?’ It is the forgiveness of sins. That is it. That our sins can be and are, by faith in Jesus Christ, forgiven, and we, therefore, enter into a relationship with God that has no guilt and no culpability. And that’s why we are allowed to fellowship with Him and to enter into His eternal heaven. Our sins are forgiven.” (John MacArthur)

V. The Father's Forgiven Children

“A clear understanding and appropriation of the gospel, which gives freedom from sin’s guilt and sin’s grip, is, in the hands of the Holy Spirit, a chief means of spiritual growth.... Nothing motivates us to want to grow as does the understanding and application for the two truths that our sins are forgiven, and the dominion of sin is broken because of our union with Christ.” *(Jerry Bridges)*

V. The Father's Forgiven Children

“Thou that has given so much to me give me one thing more, a grateful heart. Not thankful when it pleases me as if Thy blessings had some spare days, but such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.

(George Herbert)

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