Sermon:

Most TV shows have ‘families’ who do not look the same – in real families they do.

Within God’s family, the Church, is there a common resemblance?

[1] There should be – for we are all sons and daughters of God.

**Because of his love, God had already decided that through JC he would make us his sons** (1.5)

Obviously we are not mini-gods! And we don’t *look* like God, but chosen as God’s children.

Roman adoption was common. See also Romans 11.17. John 15.15 (uses term ‘friends’ there).

Many who are adopted are only curious about birth parents and are satisfied by their upbringing.

A Place to Call Home – one child is not ‘blood’, but is ‘adopted’; some are OK with this, others not.

Being chosen makes us more special – we did not *have* to be chosen.

**God chose us to be his own people** (1.11)

Why on earth did God want to choose us??? Many a husband/wife might say the same! Answer is Love.

As usual Love is not some emotional mush, but a deep fondness and desire for their best shown in all you do, say and are. Is this not also true of God? Proof of God’s Love is Christ on the Cross.

Knowing we are sons/daughters should reduce anxiety, but it also give responsibilities.

We are called to live up to the name of Child of God – following Jesus’ example. Far too difficult to achieve!

It means having a broader concern than just ‘our family’, ‘our friends’, ‘our nation’. This is what disturbs me most about Trump – it is very selfish; though cannot blame him, this is what USA seems to want. This is not what God wants from us. We live on a broader map, a larger vision, a higher standard.

Eg. World Cup we should support good play, not necessarily ‘our team’.

Eg. Praise, not jealousy, for churches with youth and families. This is tough. Impossible, almost.

**God put his stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit he had promised** (1.13)

That is why God has given us his mark of ownership – Holy Spirit; not just to prove whose we are, but to help us become who we are. The Spirit is a guarantee, and an assurance (14), (and enabler).