

DIGDEEPER

September 6, 2015
Ephesians 1:3-6 ([Listen](#))
Dr. Richard Rogers

THE MAIN POINT

We can often assume things about God the Father based on what we know to be true about ourselves or those around us. But Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians with a description of a Father whose character and motives are completely unlike ours. God always acts for the praise of his own glory, and through his acting we receive astounding benefits.

THE BIG QUESTION (Use this question to start a Conversation that Matters. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

What three words best describe God, and why did you choose those three?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Read through Ephesians 1 as Paul explains the role of the Trinity in your salvation. As you read, make a list of the many ways the Father, Son, and Spirit have loved you from before time began.
- Richard talked about the extra tools found in the back of his wife's Volkswagen Beetle as an illustration of the abundance of blessings God has given us. How many blessings can you think of that you've received from God?
- We mentioned the astounding beauty of the Sistine Chapel as an illustration of the beautiful picture of what God is doing in history to this praise of his glorious grace. One day we will see it all at once and be astonished. Write down a story of a time you got a glimpse of God doing something in your life for his glory and your joy.

GO FURTHER

- The idea of God outside of time and space can be mind-bending, but it is important. Here's [an article from CompellingTruth.org](#) on what the Bible says and why it matters.
- We talked briefly about God's loving-kindness that predestined us for adoption as his children. This idea is a really big one that we don't often discuss at length. To see why our adoption matters, check out [what Ian Campbell has to say](#) at Ligonier.org.
- When we consider the idea that God acts for his own glory, our hearts can react with repulsion as we assume this makes God sinfully selfish. Take a look at how John Piper briefly outlines the ways [God loves us best when he loves us for his own glory](#).
- Many of us will struggle with the idea of God acting primarily for his own fame. Don't run from that tension. Press into it. You can do that with this [sermon by Matt Chandler](#).

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Dedicate time this week to knowing the God of the Bible by listening to him speak to you through the Bible. If you don't know how to do that, check out some of our [suggested resources](#) or complete a [Next Step Card](#) to speak with a minister about it.