



A Farewell Message

BY: Chris Harper, AD

What makes us special?

This weekend Christian Academy of Indiana will bid farewell to another group of students. I am thankful for my time, and have been blessed by my encounters with the class of 2014.

As they depart, I leave them with one more question: What makes you so special?

In a week that is all about “the student,” such as the parties, gifts, events, dinners, cap and gowns, pictures, good-byes, etc...where exactly does our uniqueness come from?

Think about this, CAI will graduate roughly 40 seniors tomorrow night. In the state of Indiana nearly 40,000 students will graduate this weekend, and across the U.S. an estimated 3.3 million will graduate this weekend.

Of our 40 graduates, nearly all of them are entering college, at some level, where they will

join the other 22 million estimated Americans entering college this fall.

Of our 40 graduates, most were student athletes, competing at various levels, and 2 or 3 of them will play in college, joining the other 420,000 NCAA athletes in America.

We will graduate one student body president and one valedictorian who, perhaps, will brush shoulders one day with the other 130,000 student body presidents and valedictorians that will graduate this weekend.

As special as we want this weekend to be, at the end of that day, it's not that special. To quote one of my daughter's favorite movies, Mr. Incredible tells his incredible children, “If everyone is special, then no one is special.”

Upcoming events



5/29 – Track Regionals (Will Connelly) @ CE

5/31 – MS Baseball Double Header, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

5/31 – HS Baseball Sectionals @ South Central, 10 a.m.

So I ask again: What makes you, me, and us special?

The answer is simple, Christ.

The Bible tells us that God has chosen to adopt us, and that adoption is made possible through His Son Jesus Christ (Galatians 4:4-8). It is the work of Christ, and the privilege of calling ourselves adopted sons of God that makes us unique, special. Our adoption makes us right before God, and as adopted sons we enjoy certain privileges:

- 1) We are redeemed from the curse and penalty of the law - Galatians 4:5. Christ came to fulfill the law, and through His sacrifice the penalty of the law has been satisfied. Those in Christ are now free to love, abide in, and obey God's decrees.
- 2) We are sealed in Christ - Ephesians 1:13-14
As adopted sons of God we are given His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, guaranteeing our inheritance. The Holy Spirit serves as our guide, keeping us from evil and giving us all provision by which we live for God.
- 3) We are made children of God - 1 John 3:2

The Bible states, before adoption, we are "children of wrath" (Ephesian 2:3). After adoption we are no longer "children of the devil" (1 Jn 3:10), but fully accepted and adopted sons and daughters of the King of Kings. We belong to Him. We belong in His family.

- 4) We have an intimate father-child relationship with God. Romans 8:15 teaches us that we "have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but [we] have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!'" As a result of this relationship Paul Tautges writes:

-We are invited to pray and to call Him Father - (Matthew 6:9).

-We receive His compassion - (Psalm 103:13-14).

-We are assured of His love as He disciplines [trains] us for righteousness - (Hebrews 12:5-10).

-We are forgiven, released from the punishment of our sins - (Matthew 6:12).

Of our ongoing need of forgiveness, Wayne Grudem writes, "This daily prayer for forgiveness of sins is not a prayer that God would give us justification again and again throughout our lives, for justification is a one-time event that occurs immediately after we trust in Christ with saving faith. Rather, the prayer of forgiveness of sins each day is a prayer that God's fatherly relationship with us, which has been disrupted by sin that displeased him, be restored, and that he relate to us once again as a father who delights in his children whom he loves."

So, class of 2014, let me thank you for your time. I hope you have spent it and it has been spent well. As you leave, remember the words from one AD who loves you, "you are not that special." But you serve a supremely special God who has given you son-ship and sealed you with the dying words of His Son, "It is finished." For those who believe in that, well, that makes us infinitely special in the Father's eyes. Go well class of 2014.

C. Harper