

Adoption

There are many ways that the relationship between God and His people can be pictured. One picture is that of adoption.

When we think of adoption, we think of:

- A baby is born

- It is either unwanted or born outside of marriage.

Possibly the parents felt someone else could raise the child better.

- They offer the baby for adoption.

- Another family offers to take that child and raise it as their own – provide for it, give it a home, a new name.

That is what we think of as adoption.

That is a picture of what God did for us.

We came to God by faith and now we are the sons of God.

Not by physical birth, but by adoption. (Christ is the only begotten of the Father.)

We are born into this world as sinners with no hope – nothing to look forward to.

But Christ redeemed us so that we can now be adopted into His family. V4-5

1. In an adoption, the child is taken from one family and given to another.

As sinners, we were the children of the devil.

He controlled us.

He was our leader.

We were members of his family.

Paul was writing to those that were living in the Roman culture.

There is no mention specifically of adoption in the Old Testament, but it was a common topic to the Romans.

In the Roman culture the adopted son completely lost all rights in his old family.

He was now looked at as a new person. This even meant that all old debts and obligations connected with the old family were cancelled and abolished as if they never existed.

2. The adopted child has a new relation to the adopter.

We, as God's children, have His name and we are part of His family.

We are under His protection.

We even gain His characteristics.

We start acting as He does and thinking as He does.

We become like the one that adopted us.

3. The adopted child becomes an heir of the adopter.

The adopted one is now just like their own child.

He is an heir of what they possess.

In their culture, if someone didn't have an heir, they would adopt someone to be the heir.

It wasn't unusual at all for them to adopt a servant who was an adult.

We think of adoption as something for a child, but they saw no age restriction.

It gave them someone to carry on the family line.

A person of low estate that was adopted by aristocracy, because a child of high status and took on their family name

We are adopted by a king and are now the children of a king.

In the Roman world, the adopted child had even more rights than a natural born child.

A child can be disinherited, but not an adopted child.

That pictures our eternal security in Christ.

We have a number of privileges because of our adoption:

I. We Have Unobstructed Access to God

Nothing can keep us from the Father.

A child can approach his father any time he has a need.

A stranger can't do that. (Someone else's child can't do that.)

I'll listen to the needs of my children before the needs of someone else's.

The children of God can draw near to Him at any time.

We are always welcome.

We can approach Him with confidence.

He invites us to "come boldly unto the throne of grace." Heb 4:16

Because we have been adopted, we can spend as much time as we want with Him.

We can share our burdens.

We can ask for our needs.

II. We are the Brothers and Sisters of Christ

Everyone who has been adopted by God can claim the Lord Jesus as their Brother.

Rom 8:29 "the firstborn among many brethren."

Jesus was the first born Son.

But God's desire is that there be many more sons by adoption.

The beautiful thing is that Jesus isn't ashamed of us.

Heb 2:11 "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause **he is not ashamed to call them brethren.**"

We can claim Christ, not only as a Friend, but as a Brother who loved us and died for us.

III. We Have the Spirit of Adoption

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

We have the Holy Spirit to indwell us and He bears testimony of our adoption.

He gives that peace in your heart that you are a child of God.

Because you are a child of God He causes you to cry out, "Abba, Father."

He causes you to claim your relationship with God the Father.

We have been adopted and can claim all the blessings of children.

IV. We Have the Father's Care and Protection

Psa 103:13 Like as a father pitieth *his* children, *so* the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Paul said to the Philippian church:

Php 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

God cares for His own and provides for them.

There are so many verses that talk about this that it would be a complete series of lessons on its own.

V. We Are Chastened in Love

When we do wrong we have a God who chastens us.

He can do that because we are His children.

Read Heb 12:5-11

His chastening is always for our profit.

Heb 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.

His motives are always right.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Chastening is a proof of His love, because He is doing it for our profit.

If He didn't chasten us, it would mean that we were not his children. V8

He does it so that we would be partakers of His holiness.

1Pe 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

VII. We Have an Inheritance

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pe 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

The adopted child of God has many promises of an inheritance.

It will be more glorious than we could ever imagine.

It is "incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away."

Jesus told us to build up:

Luk 12:33 “a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.”

Because of Christ, we have been adopted into the family of God.

Before we finish, I have one more thought.

You might ask, “But aren’t we also born into the family of God? Can you have birth and adoption? Isn’t it one or the other?”

In the Roman culture they said that they didn’t “have” a child, they “took” a child.

When a baby was born the baby would be placed on the floor and the father would choose whether he wanted the child. (It was a very harsh and wicked culture, but that was the audience that was reading these verses.)

If he reached out and took the child that was born, then he had adopted it.

If you have trusted Christ, you have been born into the family of God and adopted.