

“We Are: Adopted by God”

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Scripture

Galatians 4:1-7

“Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, **he does not differ at all from a slave** although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that **He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Therefore, **you are no longer a slave, but a son**; and if a son, then an heir through God.”

Adoption

Legal

Social

The word Adoption is used 5 times in the Bible by Paul

Once in Ephesians, once in Galatians, and then 3 times in Romans

It simply means “to place as a Son”

Anyone ever been through an adoption process?

From an Orphan to a Son

John 14:18-20

“**I will not leave you as orphans**; I will come to you. "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”

You will KNOW you are adopted by God

How will you know? **You will see the Holy Spirit show up in your life!**

A Spiritual and Intimate Adoption

Romans 8:12-17

“So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, **these are sons of God.**

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but **you have received a spirit of adoption** as sons by which we cry out, "**Abba! Father!**"

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”

A slave could only call his master Father (Pater). It was not an intimate relationship but a business one.

With Our Adoption, however, we can call God “Abba” -> Daddy -> because the relationship is intimate!

A Planned Adoption

Helping a Couple Adopt a Child from Russia

Ephesians 1:3-8

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

In love **He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which **He freely bestowed on us** in the Beloved.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.”

Our adoption was planned

He chose us!

Before the foundation of the world

He predestined us!

Why? Because of “the kind intention of His will” -> **In Love, that agape love, because He Loved Us!**

His adoption is both Social and Legal

It is a Secure Adoption

Jesus said that He would never leave us or forsake us!

Both Gentiles and Jews are Adopted

Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Replacement Theology is Error

Romans 9:1-5

“I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that **I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.**

For I could **wish that I myself were accursed**, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, **to whom belongs the adoption as sons**, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.”

There are Adopted Jews as well as Gentiles

From a Slave to a Son

John 8:31-45

“So, Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, **If you continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and **you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.**” They answered Him, “We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

35**The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.**

36**So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**

37“I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. “I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore, you also do the things which you heard from your father.”

39**They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.”** Jesus said to them, “If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. “But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.

41“You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. “Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.

44" **You are of your father the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me."

Some Jews are not Sons of God

It is an **Open Adoption** (where the adoptive parties are known to all)

Closed adoptions are common: where the individual being adopted never finds out they have been adopted

Galatians 4:1-2

"Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, **he does not differ at all from a slave** although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

A young son is the same as a slave -> he is not free to set his will into operation

He is managed until he can act on his Sonship -> He is under his father's guardian's rule

Galatians 4:3

So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

While we were children -> early in our understanding of God and His purposes

Held in bondage -> a slave to something

Elemental things -> works-based religions, either Jewish or Gentile religions

Colossians 2:8

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, **according to the elementary principles of the world**, rather than according to Christ"

We are not to be swayed by world teaching or traditions of men -> "I'm good enough to get into Heaven"

We are to be taught Christ and live accordingly.

The Galatians were captive to old religious systems where they had to work to be accepted

Paul was also captive to these systems once -> he speaks from experience

You may have been captive to a set of rules you had to follow in your past to be accepted where, if you broke the rules, you were cast out -> you had love withheld from you.

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of the time came, **God sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that **He might redeem those who were under the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

The fullness of time -> Jesus came at the appointed time when the Father planned Him to come

He came into the world as we came into the world

He was subject to the law as the Jews were -> bar-mitzvah -> son of the law

He came through the same path so that He could redeem those under the law

Hebrews 5:5-10

“**Christ did not glorify Himself** so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"; just as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

7In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

9And having been made perfect, **He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation**, being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”

That WE might receive the adoption as sons (and daughters)

Adoption is not cheap. You have to pay to adopt someone in the U.S. and then you have to take care of the person that you adopted.

Jesus provided the means of adoption and the payment for our adoption.

He paid the price and cares for us as His own!

It is not a closed adoption where the world is hidden from what has happened to us.

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. **A city set on a hill cannot be hidden**; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and **it gives light to all who are in the house**. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

We should be proudly proclaiming our adoption to the world!

Galatians 4:6

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

We again see the intimacy of the adoption that Paul describes.

A slave could only call his master Father (Pater). It was not an intimate relationship but a business one.

With Our Adoption, however, we can call God “Abba” -> Daddy -> because the relationship is intimate!

Joint Heirs

Galatians 4:7

Therefore, **you are no longer a slave, but a son**; and if a son, then an heir through God.”

An heir has title rites to what the Father owns.

We see this in the story of the Prodigal Son.

Perhaps you have inherited something when a loved one passed away and left you something in their will.

Some of you inherited property from a spouse who passed on before you.

An heir gains ownership rights to what they inherit.

Parable of the Vine Growers

Mark 12:1-9

"And He began to speak to them in parables: "A man PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A VAT UNDER THE WINE PRESS AND BUILT A TOWER and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. "**At the harvest time he sent a slave** to the vine-growers, in order to receive some of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers.

"They took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. "Again, he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. "And he sent another, and that one they killed; and so with many others, beating some and killing others.

6"**He had one more to send, a beloved son**; he sent him last of all to them, saying, '**They will respect my son.**'

7"But those vine-growers said to one another, '**This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!**' 8"They took him, and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.

The Jews killed the prophets (the slaves sent before) and then they killed the Beloved Son because they knew He was the HEIR to the Kingdom.

9"**What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine-growers and will give the vineyard to others.**"

Matthew 25:31-34 (in the Final Judgment)

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right, '**Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**'"

A relationship to Jesus Christ is the key to experiencing God's Adoptive love.

It was Planned
It is Intimate
It is Open

Bill Gaither “The Family of God” - 3rd verse...

From the door of an orphanage
to the house of the King-
No longer an outcast,
a new song I sing;
From rags unto riches,
from the weak to the strong,
I’m not worthy to be here,
But, praise God, I belong!

Prayer

Benediction and Buttons