

Adoption

Romans 8:14-17. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- ❑ **What did adoption mean in Bible times?**
- ❑ **How does adoption work?**
- ❑ **What does adoption mean for the believer?**

1. What did adoption mean in Bible times?

a) Old Testament

- ❑ **It was practiced but not clearly mentioned**

b) Roman and Greek Culture and customs

- ❑ **A birth son - ‘Toga Virilis’ – the investiture ceremony of a 14 YO son**
 - **Given a range of privileges and responsibilities**
- ❑ **Adoption – mainly among the wealthy and powerful**
 - **Humans adopting humans**
 - **Mainly sons, also daughters – for power and succession**

- A legally binding transaction with privileges and responsibilities

c) New Testament

- Powerful truth and promises for the believer

2. How does adoption work?

a) The adoption of a child by a family

- An orphan or unwanted child or by ‘selling’ a child

b) Various systems in differing cultures

- A legal transaction with the same privileges of a biological child... or... many variations... or...
- A fluid guardianship or caring – sometimes by an ‘extended family’

3. What does adoption mean for the believer?

*Romans 8:14-17. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, **the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.** And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

*Galatians 4:4-6. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, **that we might receive adoption to sonship.** ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*

Ephesians 1:5. ...he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

a) God predestined us to be adopted into His family

...he predestined us for adoption to sonship Ephesians 1:5

□ **God did not have a ‘plan B’**

b) Adoption removes us from a family of slavery into God’s beautiful eternal family

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father” Romans 8:15

□ **We are set free from the bondage of our old family**

c) Our adoption into Gods family is a legal transaction paid for at the cross

*...to redeem those under the law, **that we might receive adoption to sonship** Galatians 4:5*

□ **Our adoption is legally and eternally secure**

d) Our new birth brings about our adoption

...the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. Romans 8:15

- **At the new birth the Holy Spirit empowers and implements the adoption**

e) Our adoption involves the transformation of our lives

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- **The Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of those who have been adopted transforming and maturing each person**

f) As adopted children we become legal heirs of God with Christ

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ Romans 8:17

So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. Galatians 4:7

- **Because we are now Gods children – we are also heirs**
- **We do not inherit a ‘percentage’ of Christs inheritance, we are jointly heirs to all of Christs inheritance**

*Heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ of the
inexhaustible resources all our Almighty, All
powerful, All loving God*

*All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the
world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours,
and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's 1 Corinthians 3:21*