



Adoption

“Justification and adoption are both pictures of salvation taken from the courtroom. Justification is in the criminal division; adoption is in the family court. Both are by God’s grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Justification is God’s declaring believers righteous by imputing Christ’s righteousness to them, while adoption is the Father’s welcoming believers into his family as his loved children.” (Thomas Schreiner, *Salvation*)

Adoption: We are no longer _____.

“The Christian is one who has God as Father ... Sonship to God is not, therefore, a universal status into which everyone enters by natural birth, but a supernatural gift which one receives through faith in Jesus ... The gift of sonship to God becomes ours not through being born, but through being born again ... Sonship to God, then, is a gift of grace. It is not a natural but an *adoptive* sonship.” (JI Packer, *Knowing God*)

Why do we need to be adopted?

- The Old Testament is one, long story of God's _____ rebelling against him (Genesis 5:1-32, 3:1-13 ... Isaiah 1:1-4, Jeremiah 3:12-14).
- Apart from God's grace, all of mankind are children of _____ and children of the _____ (John 8:39-47, Galatians 4:1-11, Ephesians 2:1-3, 1 John 3:4-10).

How does God adopt rebellious sinners into his family?

- Adoption is the result of God's gracious, sovereign _____ (1 John 4:10, Ephesians 1:3-5, Galatians 4:4-5. John 1:12-13).
- The Holy Spirit plays a critical role in our adoption.
 - The Holy Spirit _____ us to Christ by grace, through faith so that we are all _____ of God (Galatians 3:26).
 - The Holy Spirit bears _____ in our hearts that God is our Father and we are his children (Romans 8:12-17, Galatians 4:5-7).
 - The Holy Spirit _____ us and _____ for us as we wait for our adoption as sons (Romans 8:18-30).

How should the truth about adoption change us as the people of God?

- _____ – Jesus taught his disciples to approach God as their heavenly _____ (Matthew 6:5-14, Luke 11:5-13).
- _____ – Our maturity as believers involves _____ from our Father (Hebrews 12:3-11).
- _____ – The great commission is a call to make disciples by _____ new believers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20).
- _____ – A church that knows God as Father will recognize his _____, enjoy his _____, and honor his _____ (JI Packer, *Knowing God*).

“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.” (JI Packer, *Knowing God*)