

1 JOHN 3:1, ROM. 8:15, GAL. 4:4-6

ADOPTION

GOSPEL DEFINED

The airport atrium was packed with people. Many had signs, others were holding balloons. It was a party...and the guest of honor hadn't even arrived yet. Our friends were bringing their son home from Russia, and we were part of his first ever gotcha party. Adoption is an incredibly beautiful picture. In a few short seconds you can get a glimpse of costly deep sacrificial love, a life-altering new relationship and unbelievable joy all wrapped up in a new family. As sinners, we are without a family--lost in far off hostility from our Creator, but the gospel defined tells us that God offers adoption--sonship to His people. Adoption is God's work in making sinners members of His family.

MAN'S NEED TO BE ADOPTED.

As sinners, we are _____ of the evil one.

As sinners, we are _____ found guilty of treason against the King.

As sinners, we are void of any _____ or _____ with God.

GOD'S OFFER IN ADOPTION.

God grants us adoption through _____.

God welcomes us into a _____ relationship as children.

God grants us confident and ready _____ to Him.

God bestows us with full rights and privileges as _____.

God becomes our loving and patient _____.

OUR INHERITANCE AS SONS.

_____ LOVE _____ INHERITANCE

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT...

Meditate over the offer that comes with our adoption as God's children. Had you previously thought of these as automatically yours because you had been born again? Can you describe what our eternal life would be like if we had regeneration and justification and many of the other privileges that come with salvation, but no adoption into God's family? Now how do you feel about the fact that God has adopted you into his family compared with the way you felt before this study?

Sometimes people who have had unloving or cruel earthly fathers have found that their background creates difficulty in their thinking about God and relating to him as a heavenly Father. How can Hebrews 12:10, Matthew 7:11, and Luke 11:13, which contrast sinful earthly fathers with our perfect Father in heaven, be of help in that situation? Might 1 Peter 1:18 be helpful in this situation as well? What can a person who has had a cruel and unloving earthly father do to gain a better and better appreciation of who God is and what kind of Father he is?

Do you think that any of the people who became Christians in the first century had cruel and unloving fathers, or no living fathers at all? What teachings of the Old Testament would have helped them at this point? Do you think that people who have had evil earthly fathers have a God-given inward sense of what a good father would be like?

Do you sense any discrimination against Christians of other races or other social or economic positions? Can you understand how the doctrine of adoption should obliterate such distinctions in the church (see Gal. 3:26-28)? Can you also see how the doctrine of adoption means that neither men nor women should think of the other sex as more important or less important in the church (see Gal. 3:28)?

Do you sense the Holy Spirit within you bearing witness with your spirit that you are a child of God (Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:6)? Can you describe what that sense is like?