

**Introduction:**

- We have been looking at the subject of how fathers help establish our identity. In doing so we have seen how soul wounds often lead us into the place of an orphan spirit. We took time and defined what that looks like. And last week we saw what it means to have God as Our Heavenly Father. I want to go deep with that topic tonight. The end goal is to know our identity in Christ and live every day out of that place.
- Some children are born unwanted...but...an adopted child is wanted, chosen and brought into a legal relationship with parents.
- When we receive the Spirit of Adoption, an intimacy with the Holy Spirit comes to us so that He becomes real and personal as we walk out our adoption.
- I can't go deep with the Spirit of Adoption until we are clear that we are born from above!

**I. Purchased Through Christ.**

- A. God wanted children. He was willing to adopt the whole lots of us!
- B. God sent His Son to purchase our freedom so that He could adopt us. Jesus life and obedience was the price of our freedom. It was His sinless/guiltless blood that paid the price of our Freedom.
  1. *"God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. **God sent him to buy freedom** for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children."* Gal 4:4
  2. (1 Cor 6:20) *for **God bought you with a high price**. So you must honor God with your body.* NLT
  3. *"**God paid a high price for you**, so don't be enslaved by the world."* (1 Corinthians 7:23, NLT)
  4. *For you were slaughtered, and **your blood has ransomed people for God** from every tribe and language and people and nation.* Rev 5:9
- C. God did not buy us from Satan. The devil is not the one who is being paid off so that we can be freed.
  1. God by His very nature judges sin. Therefore sin is separated from Him, and all sinners are separated from Him. And God by His very nature must punish our guilt/sin.
  2. Jesus carried my sin and punishment upon himself to the cross. His death on the cross as the sinless Lamb of God satisfied God's justice...it paid man's debt to God.
  3. God in His love, purchased our Freedom from sin, death and the grave through the blood of His own Son.
- D. God saw us as slaves to sin. He saw us under a heavy handed taskmaster the devil. God saw us there, as slaves to sin/we born into this slavery, and in His great mercy sent His son to satisfy His justice that all who received Him in faith might be born

again! Justified! Adopted into His family. Gal 4:4

## II. Adopted as Sons

- A. Acknowledge the uniqueness of the relationship you have with the Father. (We covered this last week) Suffice to say, "ABBA! Strength is in the House.
- B. What does it mean to be adopted by God?
  1. Gk. huiothesia - a legal act that is done in public where a child is brought into one's home and made son of that house. huioi - Gk for son.
    - a) It was determined by the Father accepting a child into his home as a son of the house.
    - b) Adoption is the legal action by which a person takes into his family a child not his own with the purpose of treating him as and giving him all the privileges of his own natural child. An adopted child is legally entitled to all rights and privileges of a natural-born child.
    - c) IE. A little girl in the class said, "I know all about adoptions," "because I was adopted." Another little boy asked her, "What does it mean that you're adopted?" **"It means," said the little girl, "that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy."** Spiritually speaking our adoption began in the heart of God. It is the result of Grace! We do not deserve a thing and it's not a bad thing to be reminded of that fact! Adopted by the Grace of God!
  2. It means God wants us! The whole process rests in the hands of God who has set out to adopt us. His mercy and compassion, His loving kindness moves Him to take us as His children. I belong! I have a place! I have a name! I have a future!
    - a) And I am under the loving care of a very loving Father. I have the right to enter into this loving relationship.
    - b) This relationship with Father is diametrically opposed to the spirit of bondage. Ro 8:15 *"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"* (Romans 8:15, ESV) Falling back into fear is what Israel did when delivered from Egypt.
    - c) Adoption emphasizes more exactly the Father - son relationship against the judge-prisoner relationship. It is not so much the judge setting the prisoner free as it is the Father restoring the (wayward son Lk 15:22ff).
  3. It means we have a new family—the family of God. In all my travels around the world, when I meet other believers we instantly have one thing in common: we are part of the same family!
    - a) God is now our Father - We have a beginning, we have roots, we have the same Father. I like listening to stories where people suddenly discover they have brothers and sisters in this life. You get the 'sense' there is connection

they long to have.

- b) We are brought into a new family and relationship where we now have privileges and responsibilities as a member of that family.
- c) We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ. We all share in God's Kingdom.
  - (1) Inheritance is by a new creation (1 Cor. 15:50), or by adoption (Rom. 8:23), and as such it is an object of hope.
  - (2) Salvation (Heb. 1:4), glory (Rom. 8:17), redemption (8:23), grace (1 Pet. 3:7), blessing (3:9), in sum, eternal life (Tit. 3:7), constitutes the content of the inheritance. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (p. 446). W.B. Eerdmans.

- 4. It means I have a new position! I am no longer a slave but a son! I am no longer rejected but accepted! I am seated with Christ!
- 5. It means we now have a new name. *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it."* (Revelation 2:17, ESV) Unique to the Father.
- 6. It means I belong! I am no longer an outsider a misfit, a throw back.
- 7. There is healing in all of this contained in adoption.
- 8. In regeneration we are born again, or born anew. That means we are literally children of God. Welcome to the Family! In adoption we are legally made a child of God.

#### C. Scriptural evidence

- 1. *"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God."* (John 1:12, NLT)
- 2. *"Dear friends, we are already God's children..."* (1 John 3:2, NLT)
- 3. *"...for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye."* (Zechariah 2:8, NKJV)
  - a) Did you know, "The pupil of the eye expands as much as 45 percent when a person looks at something pleasing." **Application:** for he that touches you touches **the apple of his eye**. The original Hebrew for this idiom was 'iyshown 'ayin, and can be literally translated as "Little Man of the Eye." This is a reference to the tiny reflection of yourself that you can see in other people's pupils. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple\\_of\\_my\\_eye](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple_of_my_eye)) Israel is the apple of God's eye because she is the focus of His gaze. As such, her reflection is on God's pupil. Not only that, as the focus of God's longing, Israel causes the pupil of His eye to expand by 45%!
  - b) I am talking about the amazing love that God has for his children. You and I who have been adopted into His family.

D. The Holy Spirit bears witness to us that we are now God's children and our hearts cry:

Abba! (Greek), Papa! (Latin), Dada! (French). It is a very intimate term that is only used by a son or daughter.

- E. Receive the Father's love. The only way to break this orphan spirit is for people to be filled with a sense of the Father's love for them in Christ, which then enables them to become mature sons who serve God out of knowledge of His undeserved grace instead of trying to earn the Father's love through performance.
- F. *"This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."* (Matthew 3:17)
- G. Heal the heart. You can't cast this out. It must be love penetrating the heart through relationship!

**Conclusion:**

- Christ in you, the Hope of Glory leaves no room for the orphan spirit.
- God made a way. He sent Jesus His son.
- Jesus paid/satisfied the very justice of God.
- We receive the finished work of Christ by faith.
- Holy Spirit bears witness with our hearts and we cry Abba Father!