

**Title:** Adoption: The Heart of the Gospel

**Passage:** Galatians 4:4-7

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But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

### **Introduction:**

- Adoption (J. Piper): consider the primacy of the concept of adoption in the Gospel (how we are accepted into and loved in God's family) and it being the foundation in the practice of living it out.

### John 1:12-13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- Why is adoption a higher blessing (J.I. Packer)? (Even above the concept of justification)
- compare: justification makes us right before God vs. adoption makes us loved by God.
- compare: justification declares us "not guilty" vs. adoption takes us home as God's son/daughter

Being a son/daughter of God.

- if this doesn't drive your prayers and relationship with God, then consider don't have a full understanding of who God is.

### **Overview of Key Truths**

- I. Adoption is costly
- II. Adoption is blessed by God's pouring out of His sonship.
- III. Adoption brings the full rights of being heirs with Christ.
- IV. Adoption was intentionally and seriously planned
- V. Adoption reflect the very difficult and very sad situations about us (children of wrath)
- VI. Adoption means for all Christians that while we will struggle in this life now, we will experience glory later.

### **I. Adoption is costly**

"That He might redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive the adoption of sons." (v. 5)

- redeem = to obtain/to set free having set free by having paid a price

- God's price for our adoption? The life of His own Son through crucifixion.

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”

Philippians 2:8

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Isaiah 52:14

As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind

- adoption reflects the great value of the child adopted

**II. Adoption is blessed by God's pouring out of His sonship.**

"God has sent forth the spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!"

- purpose of the Spirit being sent: secures the experience of being sent that is applied to our hearts; reminds us "you are a child of God the Father"

Romans 8:15-16

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!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

- God made provision not only for our salvation but also for the experience of joy in the redemption (set free from slavery) that occurred.

"Abba! Father!"

- a term of intimacy, affection, and endearment, reflecting a close relationship. Matthew 6:9

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Luke 22:42

saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

- note: while akin to "Daddy" - it is not baby-talk but rather a term of a heart of groaning and affection

1 John 3:1a

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

Isaiah 49:15

Can a woman forget her nursing child,

that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

### **III. Adoption brings the full rights of being heirs with Christ.**

#### Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

### **IV. Adoption was intentionally and seriously planned.**

#### Ephesians 1:3-6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

### **V. Adoption reflect the very difficult and very sad situations about us (originally children of wrath)**

#### Ephesians 2:1-5

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved

### **VI. Adoption means for all Christians that while we will struggle in this life now, we will experience glory later.**

#### James 1:12

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

### **Other Passages Shared During Service**

#### 2 Chronicles 7:14

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

#### James 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Isaiah 40:10-12, 29-31

Behold, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand

and marked off the heavens with a span,

enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure

and weighed the mountains in scales

and the hills in a balance?

...

He gives power to the faint,

and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Even youths shall faint and be weary,

and young men shall fall exhausted;

but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.