

The Biblical Concept of Adoption

Introduction

- A. There are few things more pathetic than the homeless and parentless child.
- B. The Bible describes the non-Christian as that pitiful child.

And as for thy nativity in the day thou was born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou was born. And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood. Live. Ezekiel 16:4-6.

- C. The marvel of the Gospel is that it is possible to be that homeless child – and yet to be adopted into the family of God.

I. The Origin of Our Adoption, Ephesians 1:5.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

Observation: Very little is known about the mystery of God's choice. One truth is clear – He did choose and He wrote the names of those chosen into His Book of Life. Rev. 13:8; 17:8. Adoption begins with parental choice. Can you imagine what it would mean to be adopted by God?

II. The Confirmation of Our Adoption, John 1:12.

But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (right or privilege) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

Observation: The evidence that God has chosen us is found in our decision to receive Him as Lord and Savior. This act of faith confirms our adoption. This truth must be treated as fact and practiced. The child who does not live according to his adoption is in trouble!

III. The Basis of Our Adoption, Galatians 4:4-6.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Observation: How can God Who is absolutely holy adopt sinful men and women into His family? Because Christ paid our debt of sin!

IV. The Assurance of Our Adoption, Romans 8:15,16.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself bearing witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Observation: The Christian is taught by the Holy Spirit concerning his adoption. He is given the assurance of sonship and led into a life of fellowship with God. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit the Christian learns to call God his Father and to depend upon Him.

V. The Anticipation in Our Adoption, Romans 8:23.

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Observation: In human adoption the child has many of his rights and privileges yet to be realized in his future. So the Christian, while fully the child of God now, has many of the benefits of this relationship still to be received in the future. One of these benefits is the full redemption of the body.

VI. The Fact of Our Sonship, I John 3:1,2.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Observation: This summary passage reminds us that our adoption is related to the Father, to His love, to the present fact of sonship, to the inner transformation produced by sonship, and that the greatest benefits of adoption are still in the future.

Conclusion

As in human adoption – divine adoption is related to such concepts as resources, authority, self-image, relationships and potentiality. It is important for the Christian to realize what it means to be adopted into God's family and to live that way.

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