

Lesson C11 – What Christians Stand For – FAMILY

Introduction

All of us know people who either have been adopted or have adopted children. We rejoice when we see a warm, accepting relationship in families united not by blood but by love. Yet we may fail to recognize the spiritual analogy: how this process illustrates how God becomes our Father.

Part I The PROCESS of our adoption into God's family

Read Ephesians 1:3-6

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

A. Our adoption into God's family began with the Father's _____.

God's plan includes:

1. The _____ work of the Son.

Galatians 4:4-6 (ESV) ...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...

2. The Spirit's _____.

Romans 8:15-16 (ESV)

... 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,

3. The believer's _____.

Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV) ...our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

By faith we wait for our Father's promises to be finally fulfilled when Christ returns. As his children in this life, we receive many of the blessings, but for some of them we must wait.

Part II Why did God adopt us? What is the PURPOSE of our adoption?

Go back and re-read Ephesians 1:3-6. What reason does verse 4 give us?

1. So that we might take on the family _____, that we might become conformed to the image of his Son Jesus.

What reason does **verse 5** give us?

2. We are adopted because it is God's _____ and _____.

God, as our sovereign creator and adopted Father has the right to do with us whatever he wishes; just like the potter can make and shape and utilize the pot for any purpose he desires.

A final purpose for our adoption is found in **verse 6**:

3. We are adopted into God's family for the _____ of his glorious grace.

Part III The PRIVILEGES of being a Child of God

When God adopts us into his family, it is a legal action with eternal consequences.

John 1:12 (ESV) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become** children of God,

So what are the rights and privileges – the blessings – of adoption? They're not all found in one place, but are scattered throughout the Scriptures. We'll see how many we can get through today.

_____ **Psalm 103:13** (ESV) As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

_____ **Proverbs 14:26** (ESV) In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.

_____ **Matthew 6:32** (ESV) For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

_____ **Hebrews 13:5** (ESV) be content with what you have, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." I will dwell among you...you will be my people and I will be your God.

A few more of the privileges of our adoption...

_____ **Hebrews 12:6** (ESV) For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

_____ **1 Peter 1:3-4** (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

_____ **Hebrews 4:16** (ESV) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Adoption Stories in the Bible

Exodus 2:1-10

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi9rDikU-FM>

Esther 2:5-7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3lsMSEEuG4>

Family Feuds

Find the Scripture reference that matches each Bible headline.

Man kills only brother.

Morning after wedding, man finds out he has been tricked into marrying the wrong woman.

Godly priest is found to have evil sons.

Woman raped by her half-brother.

**King marries 700 women.
Problems sure to follow.**

Man claims his beautiful wife is his sister.

Queen kills her entire family to preserve her place on the throne. One baby secretly saved.

Brother sells his inheritance for a quick meal.

Letter to church offers advice to kids and their parents.

Genesis 25:29-34; 1 Samuel 2:11-12;
Ephesians 6:1-4; Genesis 12:11-13; 2 Samuel 13:1, 12-14; 1 Kings 11:1-3;
Genesis 29:21-25; Genesis 4:8-9; 2 Kings 11:1-3