

Adoption Salvation's Utmost Doctrine

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I. Adoption: God's plan from eternity past to eternity forever

A. Before time, God purposed an eternal relationship of Father & adopted children

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself...

B. Through the blood of His Son, the Father paid for & secured His adopted children

Gal 4:4 ...God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Gal 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

C. Through Holy Spirit regeneration, an adopted child comes to know his/her Father

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For ye have...received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

D. At the final resurrection, the adoption will be finalized for each child of the Father

Rom 8:23 ...we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

II. Thoughts on the wonder of the very idea of “Heavenly Father”

A. Father, as a name for the Father, does not appear in the Old Testament

1. The Old Testament presents God —Not as in relation to men —But as self-existent

Exo 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

2. The idea of God as Holy is the idea of God “set apart”

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts...

3. YHWH —His unpronounceable name —A God to be feared —Keep your distance

B. God as Father is a central theme of the New Testament

Mat 23:9 ...call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father...

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...

III. The Fatherhood of the Father

A. Fatherhood includes the idea of authority and respect

Luk 2:49 ...wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Mat 6:9 ...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name...

B. Fatherhood includes the idea of affection

Joh 5:20 For the Father loveth the Son...

Joh 16:27 For the Father himself loveth you...

C. Fatherhood includes the idea of fellowship

Joh 16:32 ...yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

1Jn 1:3 ...and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

D. Fatherhood includes the idea of honor —Both received and also given

Joh 17:1 ...Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Joh 12:... if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.

IV. The order of adoption

1) First, there is a decision or purpose to have an heir (or heirs) to one's estate

Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

2) Next, there is the choice of the ones to be the heirs

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...

3) There is a description of the estate which the heirs are to inherit

Eph 1:3 ...all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

4) A court states and confirms the determination and decree of adoption

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ...

5) The adopter makes all payments necessary for the securing of the adopted child

Gal 4:4 ...God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Gal 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

V. Ponderings about the Biblical idea of adoption

A. Thoughts about the nature of adoptions — (Both earthly and heavenly)

1. Adoption (by an act of law) makes a child (who is not a child by birth) a legal heir
2. Only legal relations are established by adoptions—Never vital or blood relation
3. Only title of and right to an estate are conveyed—Not fitness or likeness of nature
4. Adoption makes one an heir to a home—But does not prepare one for life in the home

B. Adoption is obviously by the grace of the adopter

1. It is a gift of kindness brought to pass by the choice & determination of the adopter
2. No one condemns the adopter for determining to adopt or choosing which child
3. Yet most have negative feelings about the Father's predestinations and choices

C. Though it may not seem so —In a real sense, adoption is greater than justification

1. Justification views God as the Eternal Judge
 - God (through His satisfaction of Jesus' finished work) grants the grace of acquittal
 - By the gift of faith, we come to know that God has justified us by grace thru Jesus
 - When we come to know that God has justified us, we have peace about our case
 - Yet—As great as this is—Justification gives no relation to the Eternal Judge
2. Adoption is God's decision to be my Father—And His actions to make me His child
 - Adoption is: Love—Fellowship—Family—Home—Heir
3. Some say justification is the greatest blessing of all—Yet adoption may rank higher
 - God the Eternal Judge acquitted the defendant
 - God The Loving Father took him home as His child
4. Some have wrongly used the idea of justification as an alibi for sin
 - None could ever use the idea of adoption as anything but motive for righteousness

D. Adoption puts God's love on display to all His children

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...

E. Adoption carries with it the hope of eternal bliss for all God's children

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him...

F. Adoption is our motivation to be holy —God's motivation to lead us to holiness

1Jn 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son...

VI. Adoption and regeneration are distinctly different acts of God

A. Adoption makes men to be children of the Father

—Regeneration makes men to be like the Father—Lets them know the Father as Father

B. Because we are sons of God by adoption —God makes us living sons by born again

Gal 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Gal 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

C. Those who are led by the Spirit to be spiritual sons —Are already sons by adoption

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

D. Having been made alive to the Father's realm —We come to know God as Father

Rom 8:15 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.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

VII. Adoption gives proof and assurance about eternity

A. Good parents do not cast off their children — (Be it earthly of heavenly)

—A son may act the prodigal — Yet God will not cease to act the prodigal's father

B. The Father Himself devised the eternal plan by which Jesus would have brethren

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

C. The Spirit Himself testifies to our spirits that we are the children of the Father

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

D. Being adopted to an inheritance — And born to eternal life — We shall be saved

Rom 8:23 ...we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Joh 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Joh 10:29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Joh 10:30 I and *my* Father are one.