

## INTRODUCTION

- John 1:10-13 "the right to become children of God"; to become something we are not already
- The assumption of adoption is that at one time we were not children of God, and are made such by His provision
- The sad reality of it is that we are by nature children of wrath, and called children of the devil
- What this means is that there is an imitative relationship with him in rebellion against God, wanting to be independent from Him – this bears sin, lies, deception
- The biggest and most treasonous is not acknowledging God as our God and living for His glory above all things
- Justification is the foundation for all the blessings we are to know in adopting grace, but it is not all
- If adoption is ignored, and justification alone is emphasized, we will tend to be lopsided and merely "legal" in our understanding of our relationship to God; the cross is seen merely as a transaction, and not the display of deep love
- Justification itself, says Packer, does not imply any intimate or deep relationship with God
- So this is a very important topic in our growing in grace

*If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. (Packer, Knowing God)*

*We do not fully feel the wonder of the passage from death to life which takes place in the new birth till we see it as a transition, not simply out of condemnation into acceptance, but out of bondage and destitution into the 'safety, certainly, and enjoyment' of the family of God. (Packer, Knowing God)*

- Again, as this morning, I have an agenda; it is not only to inform, but to inflame with thankfulness, gratitude, joy, gladness, and worship (in your heart and mine)
- Adoption: to take into one's family to be raised as one's own child; the Greek term means "to place as a son"
- In ancient adoption, it was typically not a newborn or child, but someone who was older adopted by a childless couple
- The adoptee had proved themselves worthy of receiving the family name, receiving the inheritance, and carrying the honor of the father
- Christian adoption is not like this, but rather the adoption of new born babes who have proven themselves unworthy to receive a name and an inheritance; all of this by a Father who eternally had a Son who was perfectly able to display His honor and Name

### I. THE NECESSARY PRECURSORS TO ADOPTION

- These are three things which are absolutely necessary requirements for one to experience the adoption of God

#### A. Election – Ephesians 1:5

#### B. The New Birth – John 1:12-13

#### C. Faith in Jesus Christ – Galatians 3:26

- You may ask yourself, "do I qualify?" How do I know these things are true about me?
- Many people have put themselves into an infinite loop of doubt and trouble about salvation in this question
- Here is the good news...you only have to be concerned about one of them: believe on the Lord Jesus
- There is absolutely no obligation for you to read into the secret electing counsels of God to see if you are elected
- You do not have to look into the mystery of the work of the Spirit to figure out at what moment you may have been born again: but you are called to believe the Gospel and to run to Christ in repentance and faith
- If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (with mind, affections, and will), you will be adopted
- When you do, then you will know that the others are true of you, the Father elected you from the foundation of the world and that the Holy Spirit has done His mysterious work
- Never did a person savingly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ who was not also elected and born again

### II. THE PRESENT BLESSINGS OF ADOPTION

#### A. Redemption from the Law – Galatians 4:5

- Galatians 2:16 Acts 13:39

- B. The Status of Sonship – Galatians 4:5
  - 2Corinthians 6:18
- C. The Status of Brotherhood with Christ – Hebrews 2:11
- D. The Reception of the Holy Spirit – Romans 8:15
  - Galatians 4:6
- E. The Loving Chastisement of the Lord – Hebrews 12:5-9
- F. The Knowledge of the Love of God – 1John 3:1

### III. THE FUTURE BLESSINGS OF ADOPTION

- A. Perfected Humanity – Romans 8:23
  - also includes the removing of our sin, which is the only way we can have perfected bodies
- B. A Glorious Inheritance – Revelation 21:7

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### APPLICATION

- 1John 3:1 "Behold...!"
- To believers I would urge you to bask in the Father's love: C.J. Mahaney has said that the greatest sin with which we can sin against God is not believing He loves us
- I have only hit the high points; I urge you to go deeper with each of these; there is enough here for the Christian's soul to delight in and find strength from for many days
- Particularly if you struggle with assurance I urge you to study and meditate on what the Bible teaches about this

*When one sees depression, randomness and immaturity in Christian one cannot but wonder whether they have learned the health-giving habit of dwelling on the abiding security of true children of God.  
(Packer, Knowing God)*

- God and read chapter 19 Packer's *Knowing God*, and read until you gain confidence in the Savior's love
- I hold these blessings out to you who are not Christians, wanting to entice you to know the Father's love