

Fundamentals of Our Faith from the Beginning

Understanding Salvation (Part Five): Adoption

Definition: An act of God's grace, whereby we are, on account of our union with His Son, Christ Jesus, received into the family of God and granted the rights and privileges of the sons of God. (John 1:12-13, Rom 8:15-17, 23-25, 1 John 3:1-2).

A summary text: **Romans 8:14-8:25**

Main Idea: Adoption is a rich aspect of salvation. It describes our relationship with God as our Father leading to assurance. It comes with privileges that He has bountifully bestowed upon us as His sons and daughters. Adoption also describes the nature of our relationship with each other and has an impact on all of creation as a whole.

1. Adoption

- a. Adoption is a remedy for the punishment of sin.
 - i. Punishment is one of the effects of sin along with guilt and corruption.
 - ii. Punishments in Genesis:
 - i. Gen 3:16
 - ii. Gen 3:17-19
 - iii. These punishments are representative of all suffering (v.19, Gen 2:17).
 - iv. Creation resists our efforts to fulfill the cultural mandate (Gen 1:28).
 - iii. Adoption places us into a new family.
 - i. We experience adoption now (Rom 8:15-17).
 - 1. The spirit of slavery
 - 2. The Spirit of adoption
 - ii. We look forward to the adoption to come (Rom 8:22-25).
 - iv. Adoption will place us into a new relationship with creation (Rom 8:18-22).
- b. Adoption is an act of benevolence.
- c. Jesus' sonship is unique to ours.
 - i. Son is His position in the Trinity.
 - ii. We are sons of God due to our union with his unique Son, Jesus.
- d. Jesus is our brother and He teaches us about family life.
 - i. Heb 2:10-18
 - ii. The Sermon on the Mount
- e. Our sonship is both present and future
 - i. 1 John 3:1-2
 - ii. Rom 8:23

2. The relationship of adoption to other doctrines

- a. Regeneration
- b. Justification

c. Saving Faith (John 1:12-13)

3. The privileges of adoption

a. A new vertical relationship to God

i. Sonship

1. He loves us (1 John 3:1-2).
2. He has compassion on us (Ps 103:13-14).
3. He takes care of our needs (Matt 6:31-33).
4. He gives us many good gifts (Matt 7:7-11).
5. He gives us the gift of a great inheritance in heaven (Gal 4:7; Rom 8:17; 1 Pet 1:3-5; Rev 2:26-27, 3:21).

ii. Sonship over against slavery (Gal 4:1-7)

iii. Fatherly discipline (Hebrews 12:5-10)

b. The Spirit of adoption (Rom 8:12-17)

c. New horizontal relationships to one another (1 Tim 5:1-2)

- i. Our family is a gift and we have been given gifts to build them up.
- ii. Our work is a family work.
- iii. We are to be imitators of God (Eph 5:1-2; 1 Pet 1:14-16).
- iv. We are to honor our Heavenly Father (Phil 2:15; Matt 5:14-16).

d. Adoption gives us a forward-looking vision.

i. Sufferings

ii. Subsequent glory

Application questions:

How does the doctrine of adoption provide assurance to the believer?

How does the doctrine of adoption help us suffer well?

How does the doctrine of adoption impact how we view our relationships in the church?

How does the doctrine of adoption motivate us to live holy lives?

Bibliography

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