

Fundamentals of Our Faith from the Beginning

Understanding Salvation: Adoption Addendum

“The Ordo Salutis”: The biblically logical order/application of salvation. (7/9/23 Bible Class)

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). (8/6/23 Bible Class)

1. The relationship of adoption to other doctrines – See Frame
 - a. Regeneration
 - b. Justification
 - c. Saving Faith
2. Divine Fatherhood in Scripture – See Murray
 - a. Inter-trinitarianism (Rom 8:3, 32)
 - b. Creative (Acts 17:28-29)
 - c. Theocratic (Ex 4:22, 23; Rom 9:4)
 - d. Adoptive (see below)
3. Adoption in Ephesians
 - a. *In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will....* (1:4b-5)
 - i. We receive adoption on account of our union with His Son. (1:3-14)
 - ii. God adopted us in love. (1:5; 2:4; 5:1)
 - iii. God chose to adopt us. (1:4, 5)
 1. God chose us in Christ; He predestined us for adoption. (1:4, 5))
 2. His adoption was according to the purpose of His will. (1:5).
 3. His adoption was apart from our merit. (Eph 2:3)
 - iv. God’s adoption of us is to the praise of His glorious grace (1:6)
 - v. We have obtained an inheritance and we are sealed with the Holy Spirit until we acquire possession of it. (1:3, 11, 14)
 1. Our adoption is secure.
 - b. *...members of the household of God...* (2:19)
 - i. We are part of a common family.
 - c. *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children* (5:1)
 - i. We are called to be holy. (5:8-9; 1:4)
4. Adoption in Galatians
 - a. *...for in Christ Jesus, you are all sons of God through faith.* (3:26)
 - b. *And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.* (3:29)
 - c. Galatians 4:1-7
 - i. The old era of redemptive history (1-3)
 - ii. The new era of redemptive history (4-7)
 1. We are adopted as sons. (5)
 2. The Spirit communicates to us that we are His children. (6)

3. If we are sons, then we are heirs. (7)

5. Adoption in the Sermon on the Mount – See Packer
 - a. Christian conduct
 - i. Imitating the Father (5:44-45, 48)
 - ii. Glorifying the Father (5:16, 6:9)
 - iii. Pleasing the Father (6:1-18)
 - iv. Our relationships with each other (5:23-26)
 - b. Christian prayer (*“Our Father in heaven....”* 6:9)
 - i. ...is not impersonal or mechanical. (6:7-8)
 - ii. ...can be free and bold. (7:7-11)
 - c. The life of faith (6:25-34)

6. Adoption in John and 1 John – See Packer
 - a. Saving faith and adoption (John 1:12-13)
 - b. Jesus after his resurrection: ...*your Father....* (John 20:18)
 - c. Sonship as a gift of love (1 John 3:1)
 - d. The ethic of sonship
 - i. Love to the Father (1 John 2:15; 5:1-3)
 - ii. Love to our brothers and sisters (1 John 2:9-11; 3:10-17; 4:7, 21)
 - e. The privilege of sonship (1 John 2:13, 23-24)
 - f. The evidence of sonship (1 John 2:29; 3:9-10; 5:18)
 - g. The hope of sonship (1 John 3:2-3)

Application questions:

How does the doctrine of adoption inform our view of God?

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?

How does the doctrine of adoption help us to have a forward-looking vision?

Bibliography

Frame, John M. *Systematic Theology*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2013.
 Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. Murray
 Milton, Michael. *What is the Doctrine of Adoption?* Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2012.
 Murray, John. *Collected Writings of John Murray – 2: Systematic Theology*. East Peoria, IL: Versa Press, 1977.
 Packer, J.I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973.