

Are You Christ's?

Biblical Adoption

1. Terms

- a. **Child:** A descendent; One weak in knowledge, experience, judgment
- b. **Heir:** One who is **entitled** to an inheritance (receives it as an son/adult)
- c. **Adoption:** Receive into a position
- d. **Son/Adult:** Mature, grown up, ready to receive inheritance

2. Children of God (Israel)

- a. In times past (and yet future) Israel was given the privilege of being God's children
 - i. Israel was given the position of God's people and children. (Lev 26:12)
 - ii. Israel was given covenants, inheritance, adoption. (Rom 9:4)
 - iii. Israel was promised to be the sons of the living God. (Jn 1:11-12, Hos 1:10)
- b. Israel is incomplete, but in the future they shall be complete. (Rom 11:25-27)

3. Children of God (Body of Christ)

- a. Now in the body of Christ we can be called God's children. How? By faith.
 - i. Abraham our father **by faith**. Faith is how we are the children of God. (Gal 3:7, 3:26)
 - ii. If you are Christ's then you are heirs. This means you are children of God. (Gal 3:29, Rom 8:16-17)
- b. We have the **adoption** of **children** and are **accepted** (received into) in the beloved by what Christ has done. Only those **in Christ**. (Eph 1:4-5)
 - i. Our **standing** before God. Compare this with Rom 5:1-2, "wherein we stand."
 - ii. We **stand** complete in Christ. How? By being baptized into His death. (Col 2:10-12)
 - iii. As many as are baptized into Christ have **put on** Christ. (Gal 3:27, Col 3:9-10)
- c. We are heirs of God (by Christ). Joint-heirs/fellowheirs with Christ. (We share in the inheritance with Christ) We will be glorified together! (Rom 8:17-18, Eph 3:6, Col 3:4)

4. The adoption of sons

- a. Not only do we have the adoption of children, but sons. (Rom 8:14-15, Gal 4:1-7)
 - i. The child is under tutors and governors. (the law, the elements of the world) but has an inheritance (ie. an heir to the throne may not yet be able to serve as king)
 - ii. Notice: "that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal 4:3, 4:6)
 - iii. "Thou art no more a servant, but a son" How? We have the Spirit of God's Son (Christ) (Rom 8:25).
- b. You have been adopted into sonship. Complete in Christ.

When we believe the gospel of the grace of God, that Christ has done all the work for us by His death, burial, and resurrection we are immediately sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. (Eph 1:13) This Holy Spirit is said to be the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of our bodies. (Eph 1:14, Rom 8:23) It is this same Spirit, that because we are sons, allows us to cry, "Abba, Father". (Gal 4:6)

It is this sure standing before God that allows us to know that we are not under the law (Gal 4:6) and that we are crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20, Gal 3:27), risen with him, and made partakers of the inheritance (Eph 3:6, Col 1:12). It is by grace and faith we are to walk at liberty, doing our Father's will. (Gal 5:1, Rom 12:1-2)

To deny our standing as sons is to not properly understand who you are in Christ. This will inevitably rob you of the riches you have. Remember, you either are in Adam or in Christ. Are you Christ's? (1 Cor 15:22, Rom 8:9)