

Building the *CORE* Series
Adoption: An Unchangeable Core Reality
Romans 8:12-17
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As we continue in Building the Core series, we are trusting that God will use the truths that we are learning to help us build a strong relationship with Jesus Christ, a greater expression of His love for people, and a heart that is ready to serve those in need. Today, we will be looking at how God adopts us into His family when we put our trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

“Adoption is an act of God whereby he makes us members of His family.” Wayne Grudem

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation-- but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, <"Abba,> Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

How do we become _____ ?

- I. Adoption begins with faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--

1John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

Ephesians 1:5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. (See Ephesians 5:6)

1Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Adoption – That part of salvation in which God receives the estranged sinner back into the relationship and benefits of being his child. The term connotes positive favor, as contrasted with mere forgiveness and remission of sins. (Millard Erickson)

The Bible reveals that we are born into the wrong spiritual family and Christ was sent for us to be adopted back into God's family!

II. The Holy Spirit's presence confirms our adoption into a new

_____.

Romans 8:14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a

slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, <"Abba,> Father."

Galatians 4:5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son *into our hearts*, the Spirit who calls out, <"Abba>, Father."

"No Spirit/ No Sonship"

A. Our new family has access to great _____.

1John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Romans 5:2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

B. Our new family has the Holy Spirit's _____ to defeat fear.

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear,

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation-- but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Our Response: Adoption helps me to recognize that my identity has changed to become a son/daughter of God. Lord, help me access the great love that you have for me and not to let earthly fears rule over my heart.

In a sense, adoption is a combination of justification and regeneration. It is the new creature in a new relationship to God—as a child of God. Adoption is more than justification, it is more than regeneration, but it includes them both. Here is the man or woman

with the new nature, declared to be just and free from the law and its condemnation, and to be positively righteous. Yes, but, in addition to all that, now declared to be a child of God. In a sense, again, it is a judicial act and another proclamation. But it proclaims something new, something different. By adoption, then, we become the children of God and are introduced into and given the privileges that belong to members of God's family. Lloyd-Jones, David Martin

III. Our new family has a _____ future.

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Ephesians 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Our Response: God open my eyes that because I have put my trust in Christ, I have new life, a new nature, and a new family. (For more information read Grudem pgs. 739-742.)

Privileges of Being Adopted into God's Family

God relates to us, love us, understands us, gives us many gifts, our inheritance is Heaven, forgives our sins, leads us by the Holy Spirit, disciplines us, gives us the privilege of sharing both in his sufferings and in his subsequent glory, and we are members of one family.

