

Glen Park Gospel Church  
**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes**

Rev Chris Trinham

Children of the King

No 4

## The Spirit of Adoption

Scripture Reading: Romans 8.15, Galatians 4.5 and Ephesians 1.5

Probably the most illuminating, but less appreciated pictures of God's innovative constructive relationships is that of 'adoption', whereby He takes someone from the household of Satan and incorporates them into the privilege of 'sonship' in His own family.

### First, See Paul's Picture

Paul is the only writer to use this word and idea. He was obviously thinking about the Roman form of adoption as a picture of ours. He only used it in his letters to the churches at Rome, Galatia and Ephesus, all Roman cities. Roman adoption of a child involved a number of steps.

- The child left his or her old home.
- All old ties were broken.
- A new family was joined.
- The new father assumed the liabilities of and responsibility for the child.
- The child accepted the authority and discipline of his new father.
- The child was loyal to his new father and household.

'Adoption' comes from a Greek word which comes from two words meaning 'a son', and 'to put or to place'. Therefore 'to place as a son'. It is a position or condition given to one who does not naturally belong.

### Adoption is a Legal Status.

Perhaps the most important aspect of adoption is that it is a status, a legal position, a right. It is not an experience or a feeling. The feeling comes from knowing that the status is a fact. In parliament laws are passed oftentimes without our

knowledge but as laws they affect our rights, our privileges and our responsibilities. So it is with our adoption as sons. On the basis of the death of Jesus upon the cross and His resurrection we are declared to be the children of God.

### Jesus Was Declared to be a Son.

Look up these important verses Psalm 2.7, Acts 13.33, Romans 1.4. They tell us that Jesus was also declared to be a Son. How can this be? Was He not the Son of God eternally? Look at it this way, Jesus the Second Person of the triune God put aside the prerogative of Divinity and took upon Himself the form of a servant, having been made in the likeness of man Philippians 2.5-11. He became the 'Son of Man' a name Jesus called Himself (Matthew 8.20 is the first of many NT references). Jesus is the name given to the one born of the virgin Mary through the intervention of the Holy Spirit, Luke 1.26-38. He who was to be called (future tense) the 'Son of God' Luke 1.35, was declared to be the Son of God by His being raised from the dead by the Spirit of power.

It is through the death and

resurrection of Jesus Christ that we also are brought into this father-child relationship with God:

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Hebrews 2:10

### It is a Choice, Ours & Gods

Our Choice is driven by our need.

In our former way of life we:

'followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath Ephesians 2:2 & 3(NIV)

Our desperate need was to be taken out of all that. Feeling our emptiness, our failure, our fear and hopelessness, we turned to Him. God's Choice was one of Love, as Paul says:

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.

God's love is first and foremost demonstrated by the death of His Son upon the cross. There he dealt with the penalty and impurity of our sin. He took it all upon Himself in order that in the ages to come to come He might lavish His love upon us as a loving Father.

### The Spirit of Adoption

When we come to God by accepting the gift of the death of His Son He

sends His Holy Spirit to live in us. He does not subject us by fear because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of adoption Who teaches us to know and call God Father, for God is the father of love to His children. See Romans 8.15 and Hebrews 2.15.

The Spirit of Adoption is also the Spirit of the resurrection. He who brought Jesus from the dead whereby He was declared to be God's Son, will at His coming release the curse on all creation which has enslaved it to corruption since sin entered the world. See Genesis 3.17. He will reveal God's adopted children and raise the mortal bodies of those who have died in the Lord. See Romans 8.21-23 & 1 John 3.2&3. This event will occur at the time that Jesus comes again.

Therefore we eagerly wait for that event

### We Enjoy the Privilege of Sonship While We Wait.

While we wait we call God 'Abba Father' Romans 8.15, Galatians 4.6 as did Jesus Mark 14.36. While we wait we enjoy the fellowship of God's Son for He is not ashamed to call us His brethren. We are His family Hebrews 2.11. While we wait we seek to please Him by abiding in (making ourselves at home in) Him. 1 John 2.28&29.

# Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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