

In the Gospel We Receive Adoption

March 5, 2023 ▪ Nick Braitto

God _____ us so He could _____ us.

Our adoption has major implications for our lives!

We have a new _____.

We have a new _____.

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We have a new _____.

We have a new _____.

John 1:12-13

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (ESV)

Romans 8:15-17, 22-25

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him... ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: When you think about being a child of your parents, what positive associations come to mind?

Read & Discuss: John 1:12-13

1. How do the two expectations mentioned in verse 12 of those who would follow Jesus (“receive him” and “believe in his name”) help us understand the Gospel? Verse 13 excludes three pathways for our sonship. Why is it important to recognize that our adoption happens as a result of the will of God?
2. What are some practical implications for us becoming (adopted) children of God? Why might we struggle to embrace some of these implications?

Read & Discuss: Galatians 4:4-7

3. Why is each of the truths we’re told about the Son in this passage significant for our own relationship with God? In verse 6 Paul describes a heart change in the believer. What new thing is happening in our affections as we now cry out, “Abba! Father!”?
4. Verse 7 says we are no longer slaves. What were we previously slaves to? How does our sonship relate to our freedom from slavery? Given the context of this verse, what then are we heirs to? What would be the benefits for us to be reminding one another of these truths as Paul is reminding the Galatians?

Read & Discuss: Romans 8:15-17, 22-25

5. Verse 15 contrasts the spirit of slavery with the Spirit of adoption. What makes these opposites of one another? How is falling back into fear (described in verse 15) replaced by this phrase “Abba! Father!”? Why is or isn’t it appropriate for us to think of God with fear after embracing the Gospel?
6. The later half of verse 17 says we are heirs “provided we suffer with Christ.” How does this fit into our understanding of the Gospel?
7. Verses 22-25 describe our anticipation of God bringing about His final work of redemption. What do you look forward to about that redemption? Verse 23 says we “wait eagerly for adoption as sons.” So, are we already adopted, or will we be adopted then? Explain.

Apply: List things in your life that are different because you have been adopted in Christ and are sons and daughters of God. How do these truths impact your thoughts? Feelings? Behaviors?

Pray: Praise God for making you a part of His family. Ask Him to increase the size of our family by helping more people understand and embrace the Gospel!