

ROMANS 8: ADOPTION

PLOT TWIST

Romans 1-8

Death Sentencing becomes Adoption Hearing

OUR ADOPTION

- (1) Planned in advance.
Ephesians 1:4-6
- (2) Comes at a cost.
Galatians 4:4-5
- (3) Removed me from bad situations.
Psalm 40:1-3
- (4) Changes my identity.
Colossians 3:1-3
- (5) Removes my debts.
Isaiah 53:1-6
- (6) Gives me new expectations.
2 Corinthians 5:17
- (7) Grafts me into an inheritance.
Romans 8:17
- (8) I am loved by a new father.
1 John 3:1

THE NEW FATHER

He loves me. Because I'm his child. That's all.

He will stay. He wants to stay.
He has no history or concept of leaving.

He is proud of me. Not my success. Me.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 9, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What movie can you watch over and over again without ever getting tired of it?

2. If someone were to point to a child and say, "that child is really loved by his parents," what would you conclude about how his parents treat him?

How does this align with your view of how God loves his adopted children?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. One of the greatest gifts God offers us is the opportunity to be adopted into his family and to be called "his children." How do the following verses help you understand what it took to be adopted?

1 John 3:1-2 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹ See what great 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. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Psalms 68:5-6 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

⁶ God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

1 John 4:9-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

2. Adoption as a follower of Christ means we're part of a new family and have a new father. As you read the passages below, jot down as many details as you can find about what it means to be part of this new family and how they describe God's character as your father.

Psalms 145:8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

Psalm 145:17-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

- ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
- ¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
- ²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

Psalm 94:12-13 *New International Version (NIV)*

- ¹² Blessed is the one you discipline, LORD,
the one you teach from your law;
- ¹³ you grant them relief from days of trouble,
till a pit is dug for the wicked.

Which character qualities of God caught your attention the most in your list above and why?

Of the descriptions you jotted down about what it means to be part of God's family, which one do you relate to the most? Are there any more difficult to relate to than others?

3. This weekend we heard that as followers of Christ we have a new identity. This means that we start believing what God says about us; we are no longer defined by what others say, what our feelings say, what our successes say, or what our failures say. What do the following verses say about a person's new identity in Christ?

Ephesians 1:3 *New International Version (NIV)*

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 2:10 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 3:12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Ephesians 5:8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

Romans 8:39 *New International Version (NIV)*

³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Colossians 2:9-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Which three statements above about our new identity in Christ would you say are most important for you to remember?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study what one thing is most important for you to remember and why?

Praise/Prayer Requests:

- ⇒
- ⇒
- ⇒

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.

WEEKEND OF SERVICE

We're just three weeks away! If you or your group hasn't signed up yet, sign up today! Projects are filling up fast! Sign up at all of our weekend services or online!

weekendofservice.com

THE POWER OF THE T-SHIRT & HAT

Get your newly designed Weekend of Service T-shirt for \$5 or Hat for \$10 at any of our weekend services or at the church offices during the week.

