



Freedom Through Adoption

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you. [Gal 3:26-29 NLT]

5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." 7 Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. [Gal 4:5-7 NLT]

28 And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac. [Gal 4:28 NLT]

Introduction

"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayer and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all." James Packer

Welcome To The Family!

To best understand this we will look at the story of Mephibosheth: (NICKNAME: BO!)

Sermon Notes

7 "Don't be afraid!" David said. "I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king's table!" 8 Mephibosheth bowed respectfully and exclaimed, "Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?" 9 Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba and said, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. 10 You and your sons and servants are to farm the land for him to produce food for your master's household. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, will eat here at my table." (Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) 11 Ziba replied, "Yes, my lord the king; I am your servant, and I will do all that you have commanded." And from that time on, Mephibosheth ate regularly at David's table, like one of the king's own sons. 12 Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. From then on, all the members of Ziba's household were Mephibosheth's servants. 13 And Mephibosheth, who was crippled in both feet, lived in Jerusalem and ate regularly at the king's table. [2Sa 9:7-13 NLT] (read entire chapter 9:1-13)

Mephibosheth's Back Story

- He was King Saul's grandson; the son of Jonathan.
- He was paralyzed by an accident when he was 5 years old. The day King Saul was killed in battle his nanny was fleeing with him in her arms and she dropped him; causing him to be crippled.
- When David asked this question he was living as an orphan in the home of Makir who was not a blood relative. He lived with there approximately 8 years.
- At 13 years of age, King David brings him into the Kings palace and treats him as his own son. He went from an orphan to adoption. From a commoner to royalty eating at the King's table.
- What motivated King David to do this? Jonathan was his best friend and he always honored King Saul even when Saul was trying to kill him. He says "kindness" is his motivator.

Mephibotheth's Response

- "I am your servant" (v.5)
- "A dead dog like me" (v.8)
- He saw himself as having no worth; but David never responded to those statements. Instead he spoke only of his new identity.

Living In The Spirit Of Adoption

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." 16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. 17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. [Rom 8:14-17 NLT]

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. [1Jo 3:1 NLT]

- God sent His son so that we might be adopted and become sons and daughters.
- The message of adoption is so prevalent throughout the scriptures that I could literally stand here and read them for the next 45 minutes and it would be my sermon. The family of God and adoption is at the heart of Christianity.

What Will Be Your Response?

- Sometimes we see ourselves as a servant or a "dead dog like me". We look in the mirror and see our defects, wounds from the past, and our lot in life and think "who would want me.?"
- The kindness of God comes to us and says "I want you!"
 - 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. 8 He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. [Eph 1:7-8 NLT]
 - 4 Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? [Rom 2:4 NLT]

COMMUNION:

Are you a son? Are you a daughter? (embracing the spirit of sonship)

- John Wesley was a honor graduate of Oxford University, an ordained clergyman of the Church Of England, and a studious theologian. He was active in good works, often visiting inmates of prisons and workhouses in London and helping distribute food and clothing to orphans and

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suffering children. He even spent several years in the “new world” ministering to the Native American tribes in Georgia. Upon returning to England he wrote in his journal saying “ I went to the New World to evangelize others and I myself was never converted. **I had the faith of a servant; though not that of a son.**”

- Adoption allows us to move from relating to God as distant to relating to God as Abba.
- When we live as adopted children we live in freedom.
- ALTAR CALL:
 - Is it time to move from having the faith of a servant to that of a son/daughter?
 - Do you see yourself as a someone of having no worth? To damaged by life’s trials and disappointments?
 - Can you see yourself as made worthy?