

## What are the Benefits of our Adoption?

“The privileges we enjoy by Christ are great and innumerable; to insist on them in particular [is] the work [of] a man’s whole life, not a design to be wrapped up in a few sheets. I shall [survey] them only in the head, the spring and fountain whence they all arise and flow – this is our adoption.”<sup>1</sup>

1. **Passage:** Romans 8:14-17: For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. *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!”* The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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.
2. **Why is it important?** “In union with Christ, the unique Son of God, I find acceptance by the Father, a new family in heaven and on earth, incentive to live for God, and bright hope for tomorrow.”<sup>2</sup>
3. **What are the benefits of our adoption?**
  - a. **But Who’s Your Real Mom?** The Father is your \_\_\_\_\_, who loves and cares for you. You \_\_\_\_\_ God. God the Father \_\_\_\_\_ as his own Son—Jesus Christ. Having been adopted, you receive his \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Conversely, if you are NOT an adopted son...
  - b. **Freedom:** Adopted sons of God are freed from several dimensions of former debts and obligations. They are freed from \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 3:22), \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 3:23), \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 4:2), \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 4:3), \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 4:8). **You are free.** Conversely, if you are *not* an adopted son, ...
  - c. **Discipline?** A good father \_\_\_\_\_ his children. As an adopted son of the Father, you receive \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ discipline when you stray into sin or idolatry. How is your Heavenly Father disciplining you these days?
  - d. **May the Force be with You:** \_\_\_\_\_. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ indwells all of God’s adopted sons. He \_\_\_\_\_ you to live a holy life. He \_\_\_\_\_ of sinful attitudes, behaviors and thoughts. You are \_\_\_\_\_ alone.
  - e. **Can You Hear Me Now?** \_\_\_\_\_. The Spirit’s indwelling affords \_\_\_\_\_ with and \_\_\_\_\_ the Father. Adopted children even address the Father \_\_\_\_\_, calling him, “Abba, Father.”
  - f. **Blessed Assurance:** Adopted sons are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit that they \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father. The Spirit himself \_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts that our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father is secure and true. The Spirit is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ us as “his” until the day we die.<sup>3</sup>
  - g. **But are the REAL Sisters?** Christians \_\_\_\_\_ to a family. God’s adopted children live in \_\_\_\_\_. They are not \_\_\_\_\_ or alone. They are part of a vast and diverse family, with whom they share Spirit-derived unity and fellowship.
  - h. **Heavenly Booty? Future Inheritance.** Divinely adopted sons are \_\_\_\_\_ a future inheritance of eternal life with God. But what is this inheritance?
  - i. **Resurrection: A Glorified Body.** God’s adopted children experience a \_\_\_\_\_ existence. Look in the \_\_\_\_\_. No more sin, pain, decay.

<sup>1</sup>John Owen, *The Works of John Owen*, Volume 2: Communion with God (Banner of Truth, 1965), 207.

<sup>2</sup>Gavin Ortland, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/adopted-by-the-living-god/>, accessed on April 2, 2019.

<sup>3</sup>For a recent discussion on the interplay of adoption and assurance, see chapter 10 of Sinclair B. Ferguson, *The Whole Christ: Legalism, Antinomianism, and Gospel Assurance--Why the Marrow Controversy Still Matters* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2016).