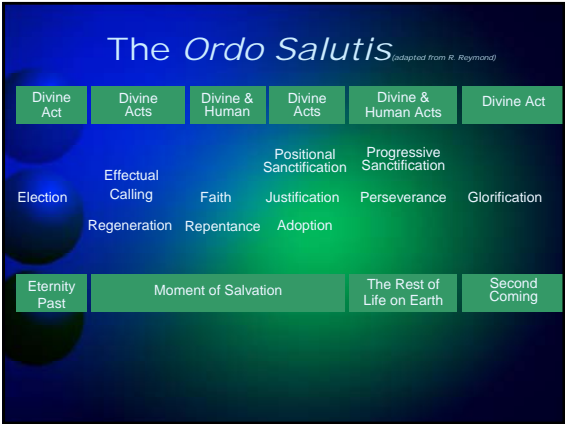


Adopted by God



The Need for Adoption

- Eph. 2:2-3 - in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
- Eph. 5:6 - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- [John 8:42-44](#)

The Meaning of Adoption

- The Background
 - The Old Testament
 - Four Examples:
 - Moses (Ex. 2:10)
 - Ephraim & Manasseh by Jacob (Gen. 48:5)?
 - Genubath (1 Kings 11:20)
 - Esther (Esther 2:7, 15)

The Meaning of Adoption

- Background
 - The Old Testament
 - Israel, God's Son (Ex. 4:22; Is. 1:2; Hos. 11:1)
 - Israel, adopted at the Exodus (Rom. 9:4)
 - The concept of God as Father of Israel.
 - Deut. 32:6 - "Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.
 - Ps. 103:13 - Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.
 - Is. 63:16 - For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us And Israel does not recognize us. You, O LORD, are our Father, Our Redeemer from of old is Your name.

The Meaning of Adoption

- The Biblical Data
 - "Son" (*huios*; 2 Cor. 6:18; Gal. 3:26; 4:6-7; Heb. 2:10; 12:5-8; Rev. 21:7)
 - "Child" (*teknon*; John 1:12; 11:52; Rom. 8:16, 21; 9:8; Eph. 5:1; Phil. 2:15; 1 John 3:1-2, 10; 5:2)
 - "Little child" (*paidion*; Heb. 2:13-14)
 - "Adoption" (*huiiothesia*; Rom. 8:15; 8:23; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5; cf. Rom. 9:4 of Israel)

“Adoption” in the NT

- [Rom. 8:14-17](#)
- [Rom. 8:23](#)
- [Gal. 4:4-6](#)
- [Eph. 1:4-5](#)
- Lessons:
 - In eternity past God decided to adopt us.
 - Christ was sent to accomplish it through his death.
 - At conversion we were adopted and the Spirit was sent to convince us of that adoption.
 - There is still a final stage to our adoption in the future.

Definitions

- [Eph. 2:19](#) - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household.
- Reymond: "God legally constitutes [the believer as] his child and adopts him into his family."
- Grudem: "an act of God whereby he makes us members of his family."
- The Shorter Catechism: "Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God."

Distinctions

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ Justification | ■ Adoption |
| ■ Lawgiver | ■ Father |
| ■ Deals w/ the law | ■ Deals w/ relation to God Himself |
| ■ Declares us righteous | ■ Adopts us into his family as sons and daughters |
| ■ New standing | ■ New relationship |
| ■ Definitive Sanctification | |
| ■ Master | |
| ■ Deals w/ relation to sin | |
| ■ Makes/Declares us free from sin's slavery | |
| ■ New power | |

The Components of Adoption

- When were we adopted?
 - Chosen to be adopted in eternity past ([Eph. 1:5](#))
 - Actually adopted at the moment of salvation ([Rom. 8:9, 16](#))
 - Fully completed at our glorification ([Rom. 8:23](#))

The Components of Adoption

- Why were we adopted?
 - Ultimate cause: the grace of God
 - [Eph. 1:4-6](#) - In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
 - Means: the death of Christ
 - [Gal. 4:4-5](#) - But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
 - Instrumental cause: our faith
 - [John 1:12](#) - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,
 - [Gal. 3:26](#) - you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Consequences of Adoption – Our Privileges

- God becomes our Father and we can rightfully relate to and think of Him in this way.
 - [Matt. 6:9](#) – pray then in this way. Our Father...
 - [Gal. 4:7](#) -- Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son.
 - This means that our new Father ...
 - Has compassion on us ([Ps. 103:13](#) - Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.
 - Takes care of us ([Matt. 6:32](#)- "your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.)
 - Gives us good things ([Matt. 7:11](#) - "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!)
 - Loves us (1 [John 3:1](#) - See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us.)

The Consequences of Adoption – Our Privileges

- Christ becomes our older brother
 - Rom. 8:17 - and if children...fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.
- We become a member of God's family.
 - Eph. 2:19 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household
 - Cf. 1 Tim. 5:1-2 -- Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but *rather* appeal to *him* as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, *and* the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

The Consequences of Adoption – Our Privileges

- We receive an eternal inheritance.
 - Rom. 8:17 - and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.
 - Gal. 4:7 - Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.
 - 1 Pet. 1:4 - to *obtain* an inheritance *which* is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
 - What exactly do we inherit?
 - Eternal life (Tit. 3:7)
 - Everything in the universe (Heb. 1:2)
 - God Himself (Lam. 3:24; Rev. 21:3)

The Consequences of Adoption – Our Privileges

- We receive the Holy Spirit
 - He gives us the confidence of God's love for us (Rom. 5:5-8)
 - He gives us an assurance of our adoption.
 - Rom. 8:15-16 - For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

The Consequences of Adoption – Our Privileges

- We receive the Holy Spirit.
 - He leads us.
 - Rom. 8:14 - For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
- We benefit from the Father's discipline.
 - Heb. 12:5-10

The Consequences of Adoption – Our Responsibilities

- We are to love the Father (John 14:31 – as Christ does; 1 Cor. 8:3; 1 John 2:15).
- We are to love and care for the other members of the family (1 John 4:19-20).
- We are to imitate our Father's actions (Eph. 5:1-2; 1 Pet. 1:14-16).
- We are to bring glory to the Father (Matt. 5:16; 6:9; Phil. 2:15; 1 John 3:10).
- We are to pursue personal purity (1 John 3:3).