

# **The Power of Identity**

## **2) Adopted as Sons of God**

**We enter God's family by** regeneration

**But we are placed as sons by** adoption

*. '...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will...'*

**(Eph.1:4-5)**

**The Greek word for adoption is *huiiothesia* = the 'placing of a son'**

**Adoption is the act of placing a child into the position of the status of a son**

**We have been adopted by God when He already had a Son of His own. We needed a Father but He didn't need a son**

**Adoption is not the way we get into God's family, but the way we are given an adult standing in the family and come to enjoy the many benefits of God's family**

# Privileges of adoption

- ✓ **In the ancient world the adopted person lost all rights in his old family, all his debts were legally canceled, his old life was completely erased and he was regarded by the law as a new person**
- ✓ **God is now our Father and we have a close, loving relationship with Him. *'And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me'* (Jn.17:22-23)**

**The Holy Spirit is given to us that we might feel  
just as the Jesus feels in the presence of the  
Father**

*'But when the fullness of the time had come,  
God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born  
under the law, to redeem those who were  
under the law, that we might receive the  
adoption as sons. And because you are sons,  
God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into  
your hearts, crying out, "Abba,  
Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave  
but a son, and if a son, then an heir of  
God through Christ'*

**(Gal.4:4-7)**

- ✓ **God loves us, understands us and takes care of our needs as a Father does his children**  
*'Therefore do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things' (Matt.6:31-32)*
- ✓ **Our status as adopted sons is in stark contrast to our previous status as slaves. A servant's place in the house is based on his service, but a son's place is based on his position. 'And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed' (Jn.8:35-36)**

***'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "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 joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together'***  
**(Rom.8:14-17)**

**Note:**

- ✓ **We are led by the Holy Spirit, and not as slaves by law**
- ✓ **We do not fear our Father, but have an overwhelming sense of peace and security**

- ✓ **We have an inheritance (Gal.4:4-7; Rom.8:14-17)**
- ✓ **The full reality of our sonship is future**  
*'Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure'*  
**(1 Jn.3:1-3)**



***'For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body'***

**(Rom.8:18-23)**

***'For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself'***  
**(Phil.3:20-21)**

**We have *'the firstfruits of the Spirit'* to prepare us for this**

**He is groaning within us in our dissatisfaction with this world, our frustration with our body of humiliation and our longing for Christ's return when we will see Him face to face and be like Him, and His glory will be revealed**

***'And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption'*  
(Eph.4:30)**

**Our Father is preparing us for that which the whole of creation eagerly awaits – our manifestation as adopted sons of God. He is training us to walk as those who reflect our new Father, not our old father**

***'And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons...***

*'...Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it'*

**(Heb.12:5-11)**

## Note the context here:

*'Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "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 joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together'*

**(Rom.8:12-17)**

## Summary:

- ✓ **Our old identity is *erased* and we have a new identity with all its privileges**
- ✓ **We have a close relationship with a loving Father**
- ✓ **The Holy Spirit is given to us so we might know this and feel it**
- ✓ **Our Father will take care of all our needs**
- ✓ **We no longer live in slavish fear but bold, confident sonship**
- ✓ **We have an inheritance for which the whole of creation awaits, including a new body**
- ✓ **The Father is preparing us for all this**

**Beware of identity theft!**

**The Devil would tell us we are**

**orphans**

**slaves**

**illegitimate**

**But we are adopted sons of God**