

ADOPTION & OUR IDENTITY IN GOD

ROMANS 8:14-18

*“If Christ has been given us, if we are called to his discipleship, we are given all things, literally **ALL things**. He will see to it that they are added unto us. If we follow Jesus and look only to His righteousness, we are in his hands and under the protection of Him and His Father. And if we are in communion with the Father, nought can harm us. God will help us in the hour of need, and He knows our needs.”*

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Four aspects we must understand about our adoption into God’s family...

1. The Agency of Adoption (vv. 14-15a)

Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:13

2. The Comfort of Adoption (vv. 15-17a)

Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 12:3-6; James 1:2-4

3. The Hope of Adoption (v. 17a)

Genesis 12; 15; Matthew 9:15; John 3:29; 14:2-3; Romans 8:18; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Galatians 3:14; Ephesians 2; 5:25-27; Revelation 21:7

4. The Proof of Adoption (v. 17b)

Romans 8:22-23; Hebrews 5:7; 12:2

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. What is something about your family (whether with you or distant blood relatives or those simply considered family) that you have really come to appreciate during this time?

Into the Bible

2. In the Old Testament, Israel is called God's son. In the New Testament, those who are saved are called sons and daughters of God and share in the New Covenant promises. Look at Jeremiah 31:31-34. What are some of the blessings that are a part of this New Covenant?
3. We are made a part of the family of God through what Paul calls our "adoption." Read 1 John 3:1-3. What are some of the marks or "family traits" that come with being adopted into God's family?

Application

4. Romans 8:15 reminds us that our adoption has a direct impact on whether we are fearful or not. Why does being called a son or daughter of God give us a spirit of confidence? Skim through chapter 8 for some helpful hints. How does that apply to our current situation?
5. Romans 8:17 speaks of suffering and glory. It can be very difficult for us to maintain a right perspective during difficult times. What are some practical ways to keep the goodness and power of God at the forefront of our minds? What are some habits that we can cultivate that maintain a proper perspective?

For Families

6. It's very likely that the "new normal" is starting to lose its luster. As a family, talk about some things that have been both encouraging and challenging during this time. How does being a part of the family of God help us live as a family in quarantine?