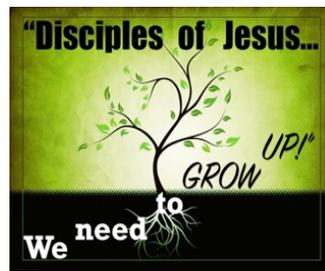


“Disciples of Jesus ... We need to GROW UP!”



Part 13: “ADOPTION ... that we should be called the children of God!”

**I John 3:1-3; Galatians 4:1-7;
Romans 8:12-17**

Introduction: If God loves everybody the same and every human being is a “ child of God ,” then Christmas is just a holiday .

John 1:12-13: “ ... to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to BECOME children of God, who were born ... of GOD!”

Those who are redeemed, forgiven and justified by grace through faith in Christ are adopted as God’s children and become heirs of His kingdom!

I. ADOPTION ... the purpose of Christ’s coming!

Galatians 3:24-29: “ ... for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith” (vs. 26).

Galatians 4:1-7: “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, ... to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons ” (vss. 4-5).

Your identity is directly linked to whether or not you understand this truth.

No other knowledge, idea or theory can provide the solution to our sense of “ aloneness ” and our lack of identity, purpose and belonging.

ADOPTION is such a clear and beautiful picture of God’s purpose in sending Jesus Christ to bring those whom He has chosen into His family .

Those who have been adopted are a picture of the grace of God in adopting believers into HIS family!

II. ADOPTION ... the work of Christ’s Spirit!

Romans 8:12-16: “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!’” (vs. 15).

Romans 8:5-9: “Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him” (vs. 9).

We who are adopted have the testimony of the Spirit within us: “God GAVE us eternal life, and this life is in His Son!” (I John 5:11).

ADOPTION points to the fact that Jesus came to bring believers into an intimate relationship with God as our FATHER in heaven!
Introduction: “He was pierced

The first two words of the Lord’s Prayer point to our adoption into God’s family: “ OUR ... Father ... ”

John 17:24-26: “ ... that the love with which You have loved ME may be IN them, and I IN them!” (vs. 26).

The understanding of “adoption” is life-changing and is crucial to your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ!!

Ephesians 1:3-6: “ ... In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ ... ” (vss. 4-5).

III. ADOPTION ... the inheritance of Christ’s brothers and sisters!

Ephesians 1:11-14: “In Him you also ... were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance ... until we acquire possession of it ... ” (vss. 13-14).

Galatians 4:7: “ ... and if a son , then an heir through God.”

Romans 8:16-17: “ ... and if children , then heirs - heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ!” (vs. 16).

John 1:12-13: “ ... He gave the right to become children of God, who were born ... of GOD !”

Your adoption into God’s family gives you the legal right to inherit God’s kingdom along with Jesus!!

WE are SPECIAL ... because GOD says so!!!

I John 3:1-3: “See what kind of love the Father has given to US , that WE should be called ‘children of God;’ and so we are” (vs. 1).

Romans 8:18-23: “ ... as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies ” (vs. 23).

This is MY story!! This is MY song!!!