

The Gift of Adoption

The woman and her husband in the video were resigned to the fact that they would never have children. But God had different ideas. We accept things too easily sometimes.

BUT IT WASN'T

1 John 3:1 says, *See, what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called God's children – and indeed we are!*

John tells us that God has given us a great gift of being His children because of His great love for us. The original language not only communicates this as fact, but also demands that we take a deep and joyful look at just how much God loves us. That we are now part of God's family as His children is cause for enthusiastic outward celebration coupled with an inner peace that comes with such security of belonging. Peace is a by-product of belonging in a secure family that is based on unconditional and unwavering love like God demonstrates and offers as a gift to those who would receive it.

In John 1:12-13 John is referencing the great gift based on love that God has given to us called adoption. The Apostle Paul used the word "adoption" as a metaphor multiple times in his writings.

The word for "adoption" in the Greek language is *huiiothesia*. Each time Paul uses the word it serves to distinguish the believer's relationship as a son or daughter of God from that of Jesus. It also is used to illustrate the Christian's change of relational status as now being a part of the family of God and thus one of his kids.

A NEW KIND OF FAMILY

In God's family we are all adopted. We are adopted into love. We are adopted into grace. The first time we see Paul use this term is in his letter to the church in Rome.

Romans 8:14-17. Paul is reminding the Christians at Rome that when a person becomes a follower of Jesus and receives the Holy Spirit into his or her life, that person has been the recipient of the gift of adoption into the family of God. Not only has our status changed as a son or daughter of the King, but also, we have become a rightful heir with Christ to all that comes with being a part of the family of God.

God has chosen us. We are his adopted.

"...to encourage the poor and to help the broken hearted."

This is who we are. This is God's family. This is what it means to be a child of God.

ADOPTION FOR ALL

God has an adoption plan...

God says, "You feel unwanted? Come here. I've got you."

Ephesians 1:4-6. It is God who has done this great work of adoption and making us his kids. It is not something that believers have done on their own accord. This term and concept of adoption that Paul writes about is based on a legal term rather than a religious term. It likely was derived from Roman law.

In Roman law the one being adopted was removed from his previous family state and placed in a brand-new relationship as a son to his new father and thus, new family. If the son had any debts from his previous family, those debts were cancelled and a brand-new life with a clean slate was part of the benefits of being adopted. This adopted son was now under the control of his new father and

responsible only to him. It was normal for this newly adopted son not only to formally be recognized as a new son in the family, but also to become a rightful heir to his father's estate just as if he were a blood relative.

God loves those He adopts as his own. Although a human father often would adopt someone from a similar social status of his own, God the Father adopts believers to move them into a new status they could never attain on their own. As adopted sons and daughters of God, we now are lifted to a new family status and made co-heirs with Christ. Paul goes on to write about this phenomenon in Galatians 4:4-7.

Galatians 4:4-7. Paul described the why and when of Christmas. When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a virgin, to redeem us and adopt us as his own. When we receive the gift of adoption that came at Christmas, and we put our faith, hope, and trust in Jesus to forgive us of our sins as He becomes our Lord and Savior, we then have peace. We have peace with God and peace knowing that we not only are saved from sin, death, Satan, and hell, but also that we have peace knowing we are secure in a family with a Heavenly Father who loves us unconditionally and with a perfect kind of love.

That is the nature and character of our Heavenly Father. He will never turn us away. He always takes us in as his own. Psalm 27:10

SIT AT MY TABLE

We think we are alone... We think that a broken heart is a permanent thing... We accept in our hearts that this is just the way it is going to be...But it isn't.

God says, "Come here. Sit at my table. Hold hands with your family." God says, "This is my family." God has chosen us. We are his adopted. "...to encourage the poor and to help the broken hearted."

This is who we are. This is God's family. This is what it means to be a child of God.

THIS CHRISTMAS

Who can you adopt this Christmas?