

## **The Nature of Adoption**

**By Duane A. Linn**

*Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

*Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

*Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Good morning, beloved.

I wanted to take some time to preach a message of comfort and hope. I know, that this past year, I have preached incessantly on the Law of Moses, the doctrines of grace, hellfire and damnation; the evil of the Papacy; and generally, a whole lot of gloom and doom.

But, as is necessary, being moved by the Holy Spirit to preach unto you a message that is strictly for God's Elect, I humbly, and with much joy, bring to you the fullness of the state that we are in; being elected unto life eternal by Our Loving and Merciful Father in Heaven.

I have called Him my "Heavenly" Father for many years now. But, as I said it just a few scant days ago, it dawned on me that God, Our Heavenly and Eternal Father, is in truth, our real and ONLY Father.

This is due to our regeneration, justification, sanctification, and finally, adoption into a new family. Just the knowledge of this wonderful and happy transaction gives cause for rejoicing and perpetual praise to Our Father and His Glorious Son, Our King, Our Saviour, Our Friend, The Lord Jesus Christ.

I will begin today's message with the words of the Apostle Paul, and his take on how this came to be.

*Eph 1:1 ¶ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:*

*Eph 1:2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Eph 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

*Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

*Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

*Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

*Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

*Eph 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;*

*Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*

*Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*

*Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

*Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

*Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

*Eph 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

*Eph 1:15 ¶ Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,*

*Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;*

*Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

*Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

*Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*

*Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,*

*Eph 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:*

*Eph 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,*

*Eph 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

*Eph 2:1 ¶ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

*Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

*Eph 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

*Eph 2:4 ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

*Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

*Eph 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

*Eph 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

*Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

*Eph 2:11 ¶ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;*

*Eph 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

*Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

*Eph 2:14 ¶ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

*Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

*Eph 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:*

*Eph 2:17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.*

*Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.*

*Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

*Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

*Eph 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:*

*Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

Wow. It gives me waves of warmth and gratitude toward our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for such a wonderful gift.

Let us now explore the word, “adoption” and see the technical aspects of the process of being adopted.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

adoption

ADOP'TION, n. L. adoptio.

1. The act of adopting, or the state of being adopted; the taking and treating of a stranger as one's own child.
2. The receiving as one's own, what is new or not natural.
3. God's taking the sinful children of men into his favor and protection.

The Apostle John says this about adoption in the following verses;

*Joh 1:10 He* (speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ) *was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

*Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

*Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

**Joh 1:13** *Which were born* (see John 3:3-21), *not of blood* (meaning that this act was not referring to the natural state, as with the Jewish people) *nor of the will of the flesh* (not by marrying into the Jewish people), *nor of the will of man* (not a decision of the will; not a personal choice), *but of God.*

***Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.***

(All this is in my sermon titled, “The Codex of Christianity. I did not want to digress from the subject at hand by digressing into another sermon on Election)

What a beautiful and gracious thing the LORD has done for us who are saved.

Think about this for a moment, brethren;

We have the privileges of one who is adopted into a family. As adoptees, we had no choice in who adopted us. Adoption lies completely in the power of the person, or persons, doing the adopting.

This means that we no longer belong to our former parents. We become the sole property and are the completely and totally dependent on our new Parent.

Being, “born again” means that we have been born anew. We are like little children; babies.

Let us have a look at that phrase, “little children” in the New Testament.

***Mt 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.***

***Mt 19:13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.***

***Mt 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.***

***Mr 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.***

***Lu 18:16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.***

***Joh 13:33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.***

***Ga 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,***

***IJo 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:***

***IJo 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.***

***IJo 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.***

*1Jo 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

*1Jo 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*

*1Jo 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

*1Jo 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

*1Jo 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

*1Jo 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*

We now can clearly see, that being “born again” or, regenerated, places us in a state of a sort of innocency. Just like babies are, as I said earlier, totally dependent on their mother and father for their every need, so, the new born Christian is also totally dependent on God, our new FATHER, the Lord Jesus Christ, Our Saviour and King, and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and TEACHER.

Pretty assuring, isn't it?

Let us now have a look at some more verses of Scripture that assure us that our new Father is indeed such.

Jer 3:4 Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou art the guide of my youth?

Ho 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.

Joh 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. (the gathering of the Elect from the four winds) (Mt 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mr 13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.)

Ro 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Ro 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Ro 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

2Co 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Ga 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Ga 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Ga 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Heb 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

1Jo 3:1 ¶ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

I will leave off from quoting more Scripture, as these verses are sufficient to convey how we are adopted and become children.

This is a beautiful thing for us to see and understand. That's it. That's the sermon. Scripture and plain reason.

On a final note,

It is important that we remember that we are indeed His children and He IS OUR FATHER.

We should be always diligently seeking to please Him and NOT grieve Him, nor grieve the Lord Jesus Christ, nor grieve the Holy Spirit.

In pleasing Him, we MUST OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS and keep away from the things that displease Him.

For instance, IDOLATRY.

If we know that everything that comes out of Rome is idolatry and Anti-Christian, why are we participating in them? For example; Sunday Sabbaths, Christ Mass, Easter, and the very infrastructure of the Roman Catholic Church and her false doctrine being a part of our everyday lives? We MUST CEASE from participating in these gawdy and perverse displays of ignorance and stupidity on days appointed by Rome as “holy days”, or in the modern tongue, “holidays”.

I've given the exhortations to us, God's sons and daughters, and what we are to do already. I won't be redundant and go through them again. You, Lord willing, get the point.

Let us REMEMBER that we ARE God's SONS AND DAUGHTERS. This means that we are His and He is ours:

For those of us who are Elect, it is right to declare that God Himself is our true Father.

By adoption.

Let us pray...

Oh Father, we who are your children by adoption, thank you and praise you in the precious Name of Our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. We are grateful for Your love, Your correction, Your provision, Your giving us the Holy Spirit to be our teacher, and everything we see and have yet to see.

We thank you, Father, for keeping us from falling into perpetual evil and we thank you for forgiving us of our shortcomings and iniquities.

Thank You, Father, for your Mercy in saving us through Your Word and regenerating us into a new, and far better life than that which we were living.

It is our prayer that more sons and daughters be gathered in to Our Family, so that the Election will be complete and that we may go in to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

In the precious, Holy Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray,

Amen