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# Sermon Notes

September 27, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## God is For Us: Adoption

John 1:12-13, Romans 8:14-16

### AND... There's More!!!

- ❖ In addition to forgiveness, God gives multiple gospel blessings to those who are united to Christ by faith
  - regeneration: a new heart and nature that are capable of responding to God's call with faith and repentance
  - justification: declaring us NOT GUILTY of our sin and giving us Christ's perfect righteousness
  - adoption: becoming sons and daughters of God and gaining the rights and privileges of God's family
- ❖ Justification and adoption combine to enable believers to live in the joy, peace, and confidence that they are accepted

### It's All About RELATIONSHIP

- ❖ John says faith in Christ gives us *right to become children of God* (John 1:12-13)
  - Paul builds on what it means to be adopted into God's family (Galatians 4:4)
  - we receive the Spirit of adoption!

- ❖ Paul makes it clear that being God's child is not something you are born into
  - there are only two ways in which you become a member of a human family (birth or adoption)
  - becoming a child of God is a gift of grace that is given to **SOME**, not a natural privilege enjoyed by all
- ❖ No one becomes a child of God except through Jesus
  - John shows the distinction that exists between the children of God and those who neither know God nor God's children (1 John 3:1)
  - Jesus makes this distinction equally clear to the Pharisees in John 8:31-44

### The Great Gospel Privilege

- ❖ Being adopted into God's family is the highest **PRIVILEGE** the gospel has to offer
  - everything about your salvation rests on the blessing of justification
  - because of justification, you are given a whole host of gospel privileges, the greatest of which is adoption
    - justification is the act of a judge
    - adoption is the act of a father
- ❖ Adoption is a family matter in which God lovingly takes you into His family and fellowship
  - to be right with God as judge is huge, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is even greater

- understanding your relationship with God as His adopted child is the basis on which the whole Christian life is built

### Becoming Like Our Father

- ❖ In and of itself, being adopted doesn't change your attitude, disposition or behavior
  - the “bang of a gavel” that finalizes an adoption does not change a child's personality or personal issues
  - whether the adoptee realizes or appreciates it or not, the value of the adoption decree is that a parent is committing to love, care, provide for, protect and “not give up” on that child
- ❖ This is what God does for us when He adopts us into His family!
  - the implications of our adoption by God take a lifetime to work through
  - the Spirit of adoption enables us to begin to want to be like our big brother, Jesus and to live up to our new, family identity
  - in the midst of the process, God never lets go, God never gives up (*He Will Hold Me Fast*)

### By WHOSE Authority?

- ❖ Anyone adopted into God's family becomes God's child on the **AUTHORITY** of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - Jesus gives you the **RIGHT** to become God's child
  - have you been given this right?

- ❖ Being secure in your adoption gives you the confidence you need to come boldly to your Father's throne to *receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need* (Hebrews 4:16)
- ❖ If you belong to God through faith in Jesus, you have a perfect heavenly Father who will never let you down and never let you go
  - the same person who is Jesus' Father is the Father of believers through the mystery of His adoptive grace
  - are you enjoying all the privileges of being one of God's adopted children?

### Personal Application

1. In adoption you are transferred from the “alien family” into which you were born into the family of God. What was life like in the “alien family” into which you were born? How is life different in your “new family”?
2. How aware of and how thankful are you for your adoption into God's family? Do you view your adoption into God's family as the highest gospel privilege God offers you?
3. The relationship you had (or didn't have) with your earthly father can impact your ability to appreciate all that it means to have God as your perfect, heavenly Father. Are there things from your past that are causing distortion in your relationship with your heavenly Father? What steps do you need to take in order for you to deal appropriately with these matters? Consider talking this over with a trusted Christian friend or church leader.