

Our Adoption into the Family of God

While justification by faith lays the foundation for our salvation, our adoption by our heavenly Father may be the apex of His grace. Adoption is by covenant, not by creation. Jesus teaches that there are two kinds of people traveling through life, either toward destruction or toward life.

Matthew 7:13: *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.”* Only those saved by grace

through faith in Jesus Christ can rightly claim to be God’s children. **John 1:12:** *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”* After salvation, God grants all believers the saving grace of adoption, making them His

beloved children with the full rights and inheritance of sons and daughters. **1 John 3:1:** *“See how great a love the Father has given us, that we would be called children of God; and in fact we are. For this reason the world does not know us: because it did not know Him.”* Jesus Christ called God the “Father” of believers dozens of times and taught His disciples to regularly address God as “our Father who is in heaven”

Matthew 6:9: *“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.’* Not everyone is God’s child, but only those who are peacemakers, love their enemies, and do the will of Christ’s Father in heaven, **as taught in the**

Book of Matthew. Jesus reveals God as the attentive Father who rewards His children’s good works, the caring Father who knows their needs before they ask, the providing Father who gives them all they need, and the responsive Father who delights in answering His children’s prayers.

By grace, we can call God “*Abba, Father.*” This Aramaic word is a child’s term for the father in the home, an intimate form of the word father, such as “papa” or “daddy.” We can trust our heavenly Father in all things. As Christians, we should view ourselves as God’s sons and daughters. **Romans 8:15-16:** *“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out,*

‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.” We can count ourselves among those who are one with Christ, the Son of God. Paul says in **Galatians**

3:27: *“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”* Our adoption sets all of God’s children in opposition to the world system, which is rebellion against

God and the people under the dominion of Satan and sin. John told us in **1 John 3:1** that the “world” doesn’t know us. Our adoption calls us to live differently from the world system and enables all of God’s children to have peaceful and kind hearts toward unbelievers. Although our

adoption by God is an invisible heavenly transaction, it transforms every relationship we will ever have with one another and with the world for the rest of our lives. Our adoption into God’s family changes everything.