

Adoption

1. Definition: Historical description
 - A. Biblical connotation of "adoption" is not the same as our practices today whereby a family may adopt a child into their family from another family. Receives Toga of Virgines, ring on finger.
 - B. In the Bible "adoption" means to be recognized by God as an adult son at salvation.
 - C. ADOPTION means an adoption of an adult son into a Roman family. Gained property, social status, civil status, and wealth.
 - D. God does not make imputations to babies but to those who have the mentality to accept Christ the Savior.
 - E. To place an adult son is a Roman custom only. It confers adulthood upon a child in the Roman family. A Roman aristocrat could adopt any child that he wanted to.
 - F. Adoption is the fulfillment of the Father's plan of a legal adult son. We are called the "adult sons of God".
 1. No one is born into the family of God.
 2. We have to be born again through spiritual birth, and then become adult sons of God.
 3. Therefore Apostle Paul uses this ceremony to remind us that we are spiritual aristocracy, royal of God and that God has a purpose for our lives.
 4. Principle: Adoption anticipates great blessings and responsibility from the integrity of God. It is up to God to bless and promote us in time, for we are adopted but do not yet have the blessing and rewards.
 - G. Apostle Paul used this word for the new position of the believer in the Plan of God for the believer. This was one of the most important words and customs in the Roman world. Everyone knew what it meant so Paul uses it to relate the principle of salvation in Christ.
 - H. Paul understood the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ controlling history and true principle of "spiritual adoption" and therefore Paul became the greatest Roman who ever lived.
2. The mechanics of adoption are important to us for it helps to answer questions such as "When do we become important to God?". "When do we enter into the Plan of God?". "When does the power of adoption become available to us?". (Ephesians 1:4-5)
 - A. God chose us "In Him" for Himself before the beginning of the world so we could be saints, for the purpose of adoption.
 - B. This refers to the Baptism of Holy Spirit at salvation.
3. Mechanics of Adoption are the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which gives the believer positional truth. (Galatians 1:4-5)

4. Time of adoption is salvation. (John 3:3-7, Galatians 3:26, Titus 3:5)

5. Implication of adoption gives us freedom to serve God, not the human race. God's Freeman. (Galatians 4:5)
 - A. You believers stand fast in the freedom or liberty that God has given to you. (Galatians 5:1, Romans 8:15)
 - B. The expression of the freedom is the Greater Grace Life

6. The future aspect of adoption is the resurrection body minus the Adamic nature, plus rewards in eternity. (Romans 8:23)

7. Israel has a special adoption as a nation. (Romans 9:4)
 - A. Through the covenants, Israel has a future adoption as a nation.