

Life After Adoption:

How our spiritual adoption affects the way we live today.
Romans 8:12-17

Introduction: <http://stephaniefast.org/>

***We must live each day in light of our adoption.....How?**

We must live each day in the control and power of the Holy Spirit... Why?

I. We have life through the Spirit (12-14)

- A. The flesh brings death (12b-13a)
(Rom 8:1; Matt 7:21-23)
- B. The Spirit brings life (13b)
 1. If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live(13b) (Col 3:1-3)
*the Spirit gives power (Phil 2:12-13; Gal 5:22-25)
 2. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God (14)

*There is evidence of being "led by the spirit"
(evidence is descriptive, not prescriptive)
(1Jn 2:3-6; Gal 5:22-25; Jas 2:14-26)

II. We are Children of God (15-17)

- A. How do we know that we are the children of God? (15)
 1. We did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear (15a)
 2. We received the Spirit of adoption
 3. We cry out, "Abba, Father." (Heb 4:15-16).
 4. We have the witness of the Spirit that we are children of God (1Jn 4:13)
- B. What are the blessings of being children of God?
 1. Heirs of God (17a)
 2. Joint heirs with Christ (17b) (Gal 4:4-7; Rom 8:18)
- C. What are the expectations and evidence of being children of God? (17c)
 1. Suffering with Him (Phil 1:27-30)
 2. Suffering for God's Glory (1Pet 4:12-16; Heb 11:32-40)
- D. What is the purpose of suffering with Him? (17d)
*that we may also be glorified together.

Adoption—is an act of God whereby he makes us members of his family. Adoption is a tremendous picture of the Gospel. God made people who were his enemies his sons and heirs.

1. **All non-believers are children of wrath.**
(Eph 2:2-10; 5:1-7; Jn 8:41-44)

2. All people who are "born again" are children of God

(Jn 1:12-13; Gal 3:26-29)

Conclusion and Application:

***Are you living each day in the light of your spiritual adoption?**

- *Are you living each day in the control and power of the Holy Spirit?
- *You cannot do this unless you are a child of God? Repent of your sin and trust in Christ for your salvation.
- *Are you accurately representing your Father to others?
- *What benefits do you have because you are a member of God's family?
- *Have you thought of this inheritance as yours because of your spiritual adoption?
- *Are you looking and reaching back at your life in the flesh or are you looking ahead to the glories of life with God in his blessing ("at his right hand are pleasures forever more")
- *Dads, do you realize that you are a representative to your children of your Heavenly Father?
- How are you representing your Father to your children?
- When you sin in front of your children, what do you do?
Ignore it or Repent to God and them.

143 million orphans worldwide
100,000 children in the US need a forever family (www.AdoptUSkids.org)
6,568 children in foster care in Wisconsin
1,280 of these children in Wisconsin are waiting for adoptive families.
What can you do about it?

Adoption is not for everyone, but too many Christians use that as an excuse not to adopt before they have even considered it.

Recommended Book: *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families & Churches* by Russel D. Moore
Recommended Article, "Don't Adopt" by Russel D. Moore: <http://www.russellmoore.com/2011/10/12/dont-adopt/>

Adoption resources:

www.togetherforadoption.org
www.loving-shepherd.org
www.christian-alliance-for-orphans.org

Domestic foster care and adoption resources:

www.danecountyhumanservices.org/Family/FosterCare/default.aspx
www.adoptuskids.org
www.wiadopt.org
www.nacac.org (North American Council on Adoptable Children)
<http://www.adoptuskids.org/for-families/state-adoption-and-foster-care-information/wisconsin>

HEARING AND DOING

Each week this section will provide next steps for going deeper with the sermon material, as well as preparing for discussion in your Grow Group. Bring this sheet with you to your group meeting.

God was very intentional in choosing the word “Father” to describe his relationship with humanity. The way a human father (and, in some ways, a mother) conduct themselves helps their children to understand a great deal about the character of God. For each example, write down what a child might learn about God’s character by watching the example of their parents.

1. Your teenage son comes home after curfew. You ground him for a week.	
2. You lose your temper with your spouse in front of the kids. You later apologize to the spouse and to the children.	
3. Your 8-year-old is running in the house and knocks over a lamp, causing it to fall to the floor and shatter. She fully expects to be punished. This time, instead, you don't give her a consequence but you clean up the mess.	
4. You work hard at your job and make sure the family is well fed and their needs are met.	
5. Your 13-year-old son talks back to his mom. You very firmly explain to him that he will never speak to her that way again, and then take away his cell phone for the rest of the week.	
6. You promise your daughter to take her shopping this Saturday. A work conflict comes up that will be difficult to move. You find a way and keep the date your daughter.	

Read Galatians 4:1-7 and answer these questions:

1. What had to happen before we could be adopted as sons (and daughters)? [v5]

2. What is the opposite of being God’s adopted son?

3. What triggered the sending of God’s son?

4. Verse 4 makes a point of saying that Jesus was “born of woman, born under the law”. Why might that be important?