



Definitions

“ Grudem, p913

Adoption is an act of God whereby he makes us members of his family



Definitions

“ What is Adoption?

Adoption is an act of the free grace of God, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, whereby all those that are justified are received into the number of his children, have his name put upon them, the Spirit of his Son given to them, are under his fatherly care and dispensations, admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, made heirs of all the promises, and fellow heirs with Christ in glory. (WLC 74)



Definitions

“ Frame, p975

In adoption, God places us in his family.

Scriptural Evidence

“John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be **children of God**, to those who believe in his name



Scriptural Evidence

“ Romans 8:14-17

For all those led by God's Spirit **are God's sons**. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, **you received the Spirit of adoption**, by whom **we cry out, “Abba, Father!”** The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that **we are God's children**, and if children, also heirs—**heirs of God and coheirs with Christ**—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.



Scriptural Evidence

“ Galatians 3:23-26

Before this faith came, we were confined under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed. The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be justified by faith. But since that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, **for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.**



Scriptural Evidence

“ Galatians 4:4-7

When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that **we might receive adoption as sons**. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!” So **you are no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son, then **God has made you an heir**.



Scriptural Evidence

“ Romans 8:23

Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting for adoption**, the redemption of our bodies.



Key Theological Points

- Adoption *Follows* Conversion and is an Outcome of Saving Faith
- Adoption is Distinct from Justification

“ Grudem, p916

Regeneration has to do with our spiritual life within. Justification has to do with our standing before God's law. But adoption has to do with our *relationship* with God as our Father, and in adoption we are given many of the greatest blessings that we will know for eternity

Privileges of Adoption

- Being able to speak to God and *relate to Him* as a good and loving *Father*
- He loves us
- He understands us
- He takes care of our needs
- He gives us many good gifts
- He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit
- He gives us great inheritance in heaven
- Angels are sent to minister to us
- Led by the Holy Spirit
- Discipline as children
- Share in his Suffering and his Glory
- Members of one family
- Called to Imitate our Father
- Honor Him through our obedience

Practical Applications

? Question

How does a better understanding of the doctrine of adoption affect my view of God?

? Question

What can we learn about vertical adoption by considering horizontal adoption?



wanted
P'CHOSEN
love
ADOPTED!

FIRST AND/OR LAST NAME :: DATE









Upon consideration of the Petition for Adoption filed by [petitioner's full name]¹ for the adoption of a minor child born [date], in [place], and upon the report and recommendation of the Child and Family Services Agency of the District of Columbia [or other appropriate agency], it appears to the satisfaction of the court: (1) That the court has jurisdiction pursuant to D.C. Code Ann. § 16-301 (2001); (2) That the adoptee is physically, mentally, and otherwise suitable for adoption by the petitioner; (3) That the petitioner is fit and able to give the adoptee a proper home and education; (4) That the adoption will be for the best interests of the adoptee; (5) That the adoptee has resided with the petitioner since [date] [if this is a foreign readoption, replace with: That the adoptee has been in the legal care and control of petitioners by virtue of an adoption [or, if applicable, a guardianship] in [place] on [date], and has



resided with them since that date] which is more than six months preceding the date

