

Free from an orphan spirit

Eph. 1:5-6 Having predestined us unto the adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he has made us accepted in the beloved.

Gal. 4:4-6 God sent His Son... that we may receive the Adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father". Therefore you are no more a servant, but a son."

Too many Christians see themselves as a servant.

- ❖ So conscious of their sins & shortcomings that they never feel that they can ever please God.
- ❖ He can only please God when he does all the right duties and works.
- ❖ What he does, he does it with a sense of fear and obligation.

This type of Christian doesn't understand who he is, and what belongs to him. He doesn't see himself as a SON.

Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Therefore, we need to explain what is ADOPTION

When most think of adoption... To have pity and take in your family a child that has been abandoned, rejected.

God does not adopt believers as children, they are born by His Spirit through faith *John 3:5-6*.

Greek - *Huiothesia* = The placing of a son into a position of favor, trust and responsibility.

Adoption is an eastern Jewish custom – *BART MITZVAH* - at 12 or 13 years old.

- ❖ Entrusted with the scriptures.
- ❖ Accountable for his own behavior.
- ❖ Responsibilities are given to him.
- ❖ Can possess personal goods.

Jesus also received the Adoption

Matt. 3:17 "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

The Father loved Jesus, trusted him and gave Him everything. And Jesus knew it!

John 3:35 "The Father loves His Son and has put everything in his power."

John 5:20 "The Father loves the Son and shows him everything He is doing."

Jesus was the 1st born... God has also adopted us and declared over us "these are my beloved sons in whom I am well pleased!" and the Father loves us like he loves Jesus.

John 16:27 The Father loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

What does this mean to us: NO MORE CHILDREN BUT SONS OF GOD in Christ.

Gal. 3:23-26; Gal. 4:1-7

He is not talking here about maturity! Look at the context...

- ❖ CHILDREN = SLAVE TO THE LAW - The law is compared to a child tutor.
- ❖ SONS = FREED FROM THE LAW = as sons of God, we are no longer under LAW but under GRACE.

Rom. 7:6 Now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

WHY? Because the law brings

- ❖ A Curse & wrath *Gal. 3:10-11; Rom. 4:15*
- ❖ Death & Condemnation *2 Cor. 3:9-11*
- ❖ Strengthen sin and gives it dominion in your life *1 Cor. 15:56; Rom. 6:14*

Ex: little children in backyard with flowers

The purpose of the law

Gal. 3:19-25; Rom. 3:19-20 to condemn us, prove us guilty so to bring us Christ

Rom. 5:20 The law brought the knowledge of sin (tree of knowledge of good and evil - It kills).

God never intended for them to know right from wrong through the Law but by the Spirit of life...

The law was temporary until Jesus would come

Rom. 10:4; Heb 7:18-19; Heb. 8:7+13; 2 Cor. 3:11

Now we have a new covenant in Christ

Heb. 8:7-13

Old Covenant - under the LAW = all depends on us... God said YOU SHALL - self centered (Peter)

New Covenant - under GRACE = all depends on Christ... God said I WILL - Christ centered (John)

Now that God has changed our heart, He trusts us to make the right decisions

Children - the law motivates with fear of punishment or joy of recompense (brush your teeth, cross the street).

Adult - will do what is right, because he knows it is what is best for him. Guided by the heart.

God set us free, in order to have a close, genuine, authentic relationship with us

2 Cor. 3:17 Free BUT

Gal. 5:13,14 Do not use your liberty for an occasion to the flesh..... WHY?

1 Cor. 6:12; 1 Cor. 10:23

Now, Our foundation must be GRACE

Rom. 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Grace definition:

- ❖ Free unmerited love and favor.
- ❖ Acceptance, approval.
- ❖ God's disposition to bless, his generosity towards us.
- ❖ Divine ability to do what cannot be done in the natural.

This grace belongs to us in Christ

Rom. 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

We do not deserve this grace, and we must not try to merit it... simply receive it... it is a GIFT

Rom. 11:6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

This grace and love are unconditional

Eph. 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Accepted = Grk Charitoo (Thayer dict.) Same as in *Luke 1:28* Highly favored one.

- ❖ To make agreeable
- ❖ To cover with grace, compass with favor
- ❖ To honor with blessings

Why did God choose to do it this way?

Old covenant

Treated like a child
Motivated by fear
Under the Law
Under judgment
Condemnation
Bondage

New Covenant

Treated like an adult
Motivated by love
In the Spirit
Under Grace
Mercy
Liberty

Because God desires more than our obedience (a dog can obey), He wants our HEART

Ps. 51:16-17 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart - These, O God, You will not despise.

Mark 7:6 Isaiah prophesied of you Hypocrites as it is written, this people honors me with their lips but their heart is far from me.

Why? Because love is a greater motivator than fear

Col. 1:5-6 ...you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

When we understand that He loves us no matter what... it motivates us to love him back and live a holy life

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

It is His grace and unconditional love that teach us to make good choices and live right

Titus 2:11,12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.

Rev 21:2 The BRIDE will prepare and adorn herself... not out of FEAR, but out of LOVE

Heb. 12:28 God is a consuming fire.... The grace of God will cause you to get on fire for God!

God looks at our heart more than our actions

1 Sam. 16:7 The Lord does not see as man sees, man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Ex: Abraham and David's actions were not perfect, but their heart were

It is possible to do everything right on the outside but if not done from the heart = HYPOCRISY (Pharisees)

We must learn to be anchored in the grace and love of God

Eph. 3:14-19

Rom. 5:2 ...access to the grace in which we stand.

We are so trained since young that we must earn and merit everything... God is not like that.

Our greatest enemy is not sin... but self righteousness (trying to earn and obtain by self efforts)

Gal. 5:4

Ex: salvation - did you have to earn it or merit it? NO... same with everything else.

Is God's grace a license to sin? NO

Rom. 6:1-2 - Rom. 6:15

If someone has the mentality... how much can I sin and still be OK

This kind of person robs themselves of God's best... they sabotage their life, short-circuit their faith.

This is the mentality of a child, that is free but still under the law. Ex : child whose parents are gone.

Gal. 5:13