

INTRODUCTION: A SOBERING REVELATION

I. BIBLE TRUTH (see Ps.119:160; Jn.17:17)

A. ADOPTION: MADE INTO A SON (Rom.8:15; Jn.1:12; 1Jn.3:1; Hos.11:1; see *LC, SC* on reverse)

B. WORD DISTINCTIVELY PAULINE: ADOPTION (Rom.8:15,23; 9:4; Gal.4:5; Eph.1:5)

C. TRUTH GENERALLY BIBLICAL: GIFT OF SONSHIP (i.e., covenant of grace)

1. *no (need for) adoption legislation in OT* (Ps.68:5; Lev.25:23f; 47f; Dt.24:19f; Ruth 4:4; see 1Tm.5:16; Jms.1:27; note: Ps.86:16 & 116:16 w/Gen.30:1f)

2. *the nation as a whole* (Ex.6:7; Jer.3:19; Hos.11:1)

3. *the king as representative of the nation* (2Sam.7:14)

4. *importance: the first of many great privileges* (Rom.9:4)

II. LESSONS FOR FAITH (see Rom.10:17)

A. THE HISTORY OF ADOPTION

1. *sons by nature* (Lk.3:22; Gen.1:26f; see Eph.4:24)

2. *sonship forfeited* (Gen.3:24; Eph.2:3; Lk.15:11f,19f)

3. *adoption into family* (Gen.4:26(*Ro.8:15*); 5:22(3:8); Ex.6:7; Hos.11:1; Ro.9:26 /Eph.2:3/4f(*Ro.5:10*); Lk15:20f)

4. *adoption into maturity* (Gal.4:1f,5; 5:13f; see Mt.17:25f; Rom.8:21)

5. *adoption into perfection* (Rom.8:23,18f; see 2Cor.5:8)

B. THE GIFT OF SONSHIP (adoption; see Eph.2:8-10)

1. *The Father Appointed our Adoption* (Eph.1:4f; Rom.8:29; Gn.3:15,24 /Mt.5:16-7:21(6:1f); loving, sov.initiative)

2. *The Son Accomplished our Adoption* (Eph.1:5b)

a. by **Nature in Himself**: Son of God (Jn.1:1f,14,18; Col.1:19; 2:9; Heb.1:3; note: Lk.3:23)

b. by **Work for us**: Son for us (Gal.3:26; 2:20; Col.1:13; see Mt.3:7; Jn.8:29,36(Mt.17:25f); Rom.8:29; Heb.2:10f; 5:8,9; 1Jn.3:1,8; Mal.1:6 /Lk.22:42 w/Rom.8:15; objective substance, rights & privileges; see *LC,39*)

3. *The Spirit Applies our Adoption* (Gal.3:26; 4:6; Rom.8:2f,14f; subjective experience, enjoyment)

III. LESSONS FOR LIFE (see 2Tm.3:14-17)

A. RECOGNIZE, VALUE & PRAISE GOD FOR THE SONSHIP OF GOD IN ALL HUMANITY

(Gen.1:26f; 9:6; Eph.4:24)

B. CONFESS THAT YOU & ALL ARE BORN REBELLIOUS ORPHANS IN NEED OF ADOPTION

(Eph.2:3; see Gen.3:24f; Lk.15:11f; 1Cor.5:5)

C. COME TO CHRIST THAT YOU MAY BE ADOPTED TO GOD IN HIS ACCOMPLISHED SONSHIP (Gal.3:26; 2:20; Eph.1:5; Col.1:13; Lk.15:19f)

D. ENJOY THE PRIVILEGES OF YOUR ADOPTION! (Mt.5:48; Rom.8:1f,13f,28f,39; see Eph.1:4,5 w/1Cor.2:12f; 12:13(Mt.28:19); 10:17; Rom.8:26,27(Mt.6:9f); Eph.6:4 (Jn.14:26; Heb.12:5f))

E. ENJOY THE PRIVILEGED DUTIES OF YOUR MATURITY! (Gal.4:1f,10; 5:1f,13f,16f,22f; Eph.5:8f; Col.2:20f; Mt.15:9; see Mt.17:25f)

F. CONSIDER GIVING THE GIFT OF ADOPTION (Eph.1:4,5; see *The Blind Side*; yet see 1Tm.5:16; Jms.1:27; e.g., OT, I.C.1. above)

G. PERSEVERE IN FAITH AND FAITHFULNESS, LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PERFECTION OF YOUR ADOPTION! (Rom.8:23,18f; see 2Cor.5:8)

H. PRAISE & WORSHIP YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER FOR MAKING YOU HIS CHILD IN CHRIST! (Eph.1:4,5; Mt.6:9f; Rom.8:31f; see Ps.103:12)

The Lord's Prayer (from Matthew 6:9-13)

Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. What is the basic idea in adoption? Where is it found in the OT? In the NT?
7. How is man a son of God in creation? Why, then, does he need to be adopted?
8. How is each Person in God involved in spiritual adoption?
9. How is adoption important to your understanding and appreciation of your salvation? To your approach to unbelievers? To your confidence in God? To your approach to the Christian life? To your hope for the future?
10. What is your basic impression of adoption? What is your emotional response? How will this make a difference in what you believe and how you will behave?

FURTHER: Discuss the *Larger Catechism* (incl. references) & consider memorizing *Shorter Catechism* on "Justification".

Larger Catechism - Q. 74. *What is adoption?* A. 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. 1 John 3:1; Eph. 1:5; Gal. 4:4-5; John 1:12; 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 3:12; Gal. 4:6; Ps. 103:13; Prov. 14:26; Matt. 6:32; Heb. 6:12; Rom. 8:17.

Shorter Catechism

Q. 34. *What is adoption?* A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God. 1 John 3:1; John 1:12; Rom. 8:17.

Q. 36. *What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?* A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end. Rom. 5:1-2, 5; Rom. 14:17; Prov. 4:18; 1 John 5:13; 1 Pet. 1:5.

To talk with someone about becoming a child of God through faith in Christ, contact The Reformed Presbyterian Church in Oswego at 315-343-7112 or oswegorpc@hotmail.com