

## Children of God (and that makes us a ...)

1. Since we're a ..., introductions seem to be in order
2. Last week: Saved by Grace. This week: Adoption into God's family
3. Five solas of the Reformation - a quick review
4. Biblical or not biblical?
5. Redemption (salvation) accomplished and applied - an overview
6. Adoption as sons (and daughters) of and by God the Father

## Five solas of the Reformation

1. **Sola Scriptura** (by Scripture alone, as opposed to tradition, creeds, confessions, etc.)
2. **Sola Fide** (by faith alone, i.e. justification is by faith alone, and not by works)
3. **Sola Gratia** (by grace alone, and not by our own merit)
4. **Solo Christo** (through Christ alone...no pope, priest, or other mediator is necessary)
5. **Soli Deo Gloria** (glory to God alone)

## Biblical or not biblical?

(See the slide for this.)

## Redemption (salvation) accomplished and applied

Redeemed (ransomed, purchased) by whom? What were we redeemed from? Bondage to sin and Satan, but the price was not paid to either of those...

Christians are twice-owned. God created us and bought us.

1. Election and predestination (God's sovereignty)
2. Effectual calling (different than the gospel call)
3. Regeneration (new spiritual life - we were dead, now we're not)
4. Conversion (Faith and repentance - what we do)
5. Justification (right legal standing before God)
6. **Adoption (children of God)**
7. Sanctification (becoming who we are)
8. Perseverance of the saints (eternal security)
9. Union with Christ (so important!)
10. Glorification

## Adoption as sons and daughters of God the Father

Adoption is an act of God whereby he makes us members of his family. He is our Father, and we are his sons and daughters.

## 1. Scriptural evidence for adoption

### a. **John 1:12**

i. In contrast...

1. **Ephesians 2:2-3; 5:6** - “children of wrath” and “sons of disobedience”

2. **John 8:41-44**

### b. **Romans 8:14-17**

i. If “children of God,” what does that make us to each other?

ii. **Romans 9:6-8** - that family extends back into OT Israel

### c. **Galatians 3:23-26**

i. Under the old covenant (under the law), adoption as God’s children was not yet fully realized or clear.

1. **Psalm 103:13**

2. **Isaiah 43:6-7**

ii. What was missing from the OT understanding of God as our Father?

1. The Holy Spirit

d. One specific thing the Holy Spirit does is bear witness in our hearts that we are indeed God’s children

i. **Galatians 4:4-7**

ii. **Romans 8:15-16**

### e. **1 John 3:1-2**

f. Although Jesus is our brother, there seems to be a distinction between him and us

i. **Hebrews 2:10-12**

ii. **Romans 8:29**

iii. **John 20:17**

g. And although we are now God’s children, there is also a future sense of the fulfillment of our adoption

i. **Romans 8:23**

ii. **Ephesians 1:11-14**

## 2. Adoption is distinct from regeneration and justification

a. Regeneration - God makes us spiritually alive, able to relate to him in prayer and worship and hear his Word with receptive hearts (Grudem), and able to believe in faith

i. If he makes us spiritually alive, what were we before he does this?

ii. **Ephesians 2:1-5**

iii. John 3:1-15 - Jesus and Nicodemus

iv. Angels are an example of spiritually alive beings who are not in God’s family, with the privileges that come with being family members

- b. Justification - God could have forgiven our sins and declared us not guilty without making us his children. Picture a judge doing this?
  - c. Adoption - is a relationship with God as our Father
    - i. **1 John 3:1**
3. So we're adopted. So what? The privileges of adoption.
- a. Being able to speak to God and relate to him as a Father - a good and loving Father
    - i. Matthew 6:9 - Jesus said to pray like this: "Our father in heaven..."
    - ii. Galatians 4:7 - no longer slaves, but sons (and daughters)
    - iii. Romans 8:15-16 - internal witness of the Holy Spirit
    - iv. "This relationship to God as our Father is the foundation of many other blessings of the Christian life, and it becomes the primary way in which we relate to God. Certainly it is true that God is our Creator, our judge, our Lord and Master, our teacher, our provider and protector, and the one who by his providential care sustains our existence. But the role that is most intimate, and the role that conveys the highest privileges of fellowship with God for eternity, is his role as our heavenly Father." Grudem, 739
    - v. A key distinction of Christianity from all other religions?
  - b. As our Father, he:
    - i. Loves us - 1 John 3:1
    - ii. Understands us - Psalm 103:13-14
    - iii. Takes care of our needs - Matthew 6:31-32
    - iv. Gives us many good gifts - Matthew 7:11
    - v. Especially gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit - Luke 11:13
    - vi. Gives us an inheritance in heaven - Galatians 4:7, Romans 8:17, Ephesians 1:11-14, 1 Peter 1:3-4
  - c. We can, and Jesus said we should, pray to God as our Father, daily, asking forgiveness for our debts (sins), not in a justification sense, but to restore our fellowship with him. Matthew 6:9-12
  - d. God disciplines us, as his children
    - i. Hebrews 12:5-11
    - ii. Confirmation that we are his children? Yes.
  - e. We can share in Christ's sufferings
    - i. Romans 8:17
  - f. Our relationships with each other - as a family
    - i. Predominant way that the NT authors address fellow believers
      - 1. Acts 15:22-23
      - 2. Romans 1:13
      - 3. James 1:2, 9, 16, 19, etc.

- ii. If the church is God's family - if we are a family - then church work is family work
    - 1. We shouldn't be competing with one another
    - 2. We shouldn't be hindering one another
    - 3. We should be encouraging one another
  - g. We can, and should, imitate God as our Father
    - i. Ephesians 5:1
    - ii. 1 Peter 1:14-16
  - h. And finally, when we live that way, imitating God as our Father, we bring honor and glory to him.
    - i. Matthew 5:16
4. Closing thoughts
- a. What would eternity be like without adoption, but with regeneration and justification?
  - b. How will a (hopefully) better understanding of our adoption by God affect how we relate to fellow believers, and specifically our local church?

#### Resources

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five\\_solae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_solae)
2. Redemption Accomplished and Applied by John Murray
3. Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem