

1 **CELEBRATING OUR ADOPTION**2 **November 18**3 4 **Galatians 4:4-8**

- But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. ⁸ But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

5 **Romans 8:14-17**

- For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

6 **INTRODUCTION**

- Our children are precious to us.
- The real root and foundation of adoption
- Adoption pictures the very heart of God.
- Galatians 4:4-5: ". . . God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

7 **A Comparison**

- God adopting us is the ultimate act of grace.
- Adoption is the ultimate act of grace on a human level.

8 **THE HIGH COST OF ADOPTION (for God and for us)**

- The Price God Paid
 - Galatians 4:4-5: But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
 - *redeem* means "to purchase"
 - the price paid for the redemption of a slave
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9 **The price described - Isaiah 53**

- Isaiah 53:4: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.
- Isaiah 53:5-6: But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed. . . the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- Isaiah 53:10: Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. . . "

10 **The price we pay in adopting children.**

- Huge costs
- Disappointments
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- Costs in time and stress
- You never stop being a parent till you die.
- It is absolutely right for adoptive parents to commit to this cost for the life of their child!
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11 **THE SERIOUS PLANNING FOR ADOPTION (for God and for us)**

- God's Adoption Plan - Ephesians 1:4-6: "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the beloved."
- *The Pleasures of God*, John Piper, p. 162

12 **Our Adoption Plan**

- Children by birth -- a good plan
- What about the more than 100,000 children in foster care in the U. S. alone who are waiting to be adopted into a family?
- What a mission field!
- Adoption can be as precious and significant as having children by birth.

13 **THE LEGAL OBSTACLES TO ADOPTION**

- For God – Galatians 6:4-6
 - God had to first deal with the legal obstacles to our redemption and adoption
 - The sin of mankind
 - God's holy and righteous nature
 - God had to satisfy His justice and His law in order to adopt sinners into His family.

14 **Step 10 for Us**

15 **THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE IN ADOPTION**

- For God - Ephesians 2:3: "We . . . were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

- Who we were: He found us ugly, evil and rebellious.

16 **The ones God pursued in adoption**

- Ephesians 2:4: "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us."
- Galatians 4:4-5: THEREFORE "God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

17 **For Us**

18 **THE FAMILY SPIRIT OF ADOPTION**

- Galatians 4:6: ". . . God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"
- Romans 8:15-16: "¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

19 **THE FAMILY SPIRIT OF ADOPTION**

20 **For Our Families**

- In Christian families who have adopted children, God in His mercy gives to both parents, the children by birth, and adopted children that feeling of family, of love and affection.
- The bond between parents and adopted children are deep and strong – I dare to say as strong as the bond between parents and their birth children.

21