

## **Doctrine of Adoption**

The spirit of comparison will follow us wherever we go...

What does bible have to say

**Paul's letter to the Ephesians 1:** All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth

### **1/ What does it mean by “adoption”?**

Most likely the Roman rite 'Adoptio Sensu Stricto'

Brought changes to every area of the adoptees life

A new father 'patria potestas', mother, brothers and sisters

A break with the old family and the debts and liabilities of it

The same rights as a legitimate biological son

A commitment to a new family and the name, privileges and responsibilities of it

### **2/ What are the benefits of adoption?**

our Father

“the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”

our Fit

“even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us”

## our Failings

“to be holy and without fault in his eyes”, “forgave our sins”

## our Family

“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family”

## our Favour

“This is what he wanted ... it gave him great pleasure.”, “the glorious grace he has poured out on us”

## our Face value

“he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son”

## our Future

“And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ”

It used to be that you could say that there is always someone who has a more significant father (or mother), who fits better, who has failed less, who has a stronger family, who carries more favour, who's (face) value seems higher and who's future looks brighter.

Not any more – we are now adopted by the greatest kindest and most perfect father, we fit because we were chosen to fit, our failings have been covered by Jesus' blood, we belong to the strongest and biggest family that will be made up of people from every tribe tongue and nation, we carry the favour of the king of kings our value is worth the price of the blood of God's own son and our future is to inherit the earth. Sorry who am I supposed to compare myself to again?

## **3/ How shall we respond?**

a) let your thinking be renewed at the deepest level to line up with these truths

Without a revelation of the doctrine of adoption we are just organising orphans.  
With it we are releasing sons and daughters.

b) Receive others in the same way we have been received

Freely you have received, freely give

It's the most supreme selfishness to have been given unlimited wealth and not to give some away.

c) Consider adoption and fostering

## **Questions for individual/group Study**

1. Put yourself in the position of someone reading Paul's letter to the Ephesians for the first time. What stands out to you about Paul's opening words read in Eph 1:1-10?
2. When Simon spoke about understanding that God is a good and loving Father for the first time could you relate to that experience?
3. Which of the 7 'F's do you most need to see transformation of your thinking?
4. Who is there in your life that you need to 'receive' as Christ has received you?
5. Have you considered adoption or fostering? Do you feel God leading you in that direction?