

# Adoption

## Introduction:

The Biblical doctrine of Adoption gives the lie to the false notion of the “Universal Fatherhood of God.” There is an essential need to be brought in the family of God for Him to be our Father. (“Ye are of your father, the Devil,” said Jesus to the unsaved Pharisees — John 8:44. See also: Ephesians 2:2-3; I John 3:10).

When a person is saved, he does not become a servant, but a SON. He or she is adopted into the family of the Father, given legal status as a son (or daughter,) made an heir of God and a joint-heir with the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus Adoption refers to our position with Christ.

## I. The Meaning of “Adoption”

Adoption means to make a child one’s own who is by birth the child of another.

The Greek word translated ‘adoption’ — “huiothesia” — means the “placing as a son.”

The custom of adoption in Biblical times formally and legally placed the child in the position of a legal son and gave to him all the privileges of a son. He was recognized as an heir by law.

In the New Testament, the term has reference to that aspect of salvation which restores the sinner to the privileges of sonship. In Christ, we are not only made God’s children in character — divine nature, but we are made God’s children in invested privilege. The account of the “prodigal son” in Luke 15:22 describes the blessing of adoption. Galatians 4:1-5 likens adoption to the attaining of ‘adulthood’ with all its status.

## II. The Manner of “Adoption”

### A. We are adopted through the New Birth.

There is no waiting. Adoption is the present possession of every believer.

John 1:12; Galatians 3:26; I John 3:2

### B. The Full Realization of our Adoption occurs at the Resurrection.

Romans 8:23; I John 3:2

## III. The Miracle of “Adoption”

The privilege of Adoption is that the believer has everything that Christ possesses.

Some of the blessings of Adoption are:

A. A Family Name — Ephesians 3:14-15; I John 3:1

B. A Family Likeness — Romans 8:29

C. A Family Nature — II Peter 1:4

D. A Family Love — John 13:35; I John 3:14

E. A Filial Spirit — Romans 8:15

F. A Fatherly Care - Luke 12:27-32; Romans 8:15

G. A Fatherly Comfort — Isaiah 66:13; II Corinthians 1:4

H. A Fatherly Chastisement — Hebrews 12:5-11

I. A Full Inheritance — Romans 8:17; I Peter 1:3-5