

A painting depicting a group of people in a rural setting. In the foreground, a woman in a white dress and black apron sits on the ground, holding a young child. Another child lies on a blanket next to her. In the background, a group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered around a table, some appearing to be in conversation or prayer. The scene is set outdoors with a landscape of hills and trees in the distance. The overall tone is peaceful and domestic.

The Things Freely Given Us of God

The Adoption of Sons

The Spirit of Adoption

- According to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* the English word adoption carries the following meanings:
 - The act of adopting, or the state of being adopted; the taking and treating of a stranger as one's own child.
 - The receiving as one's own, what is new or not natural.
 - God's taking the sinful children of men into his favor and protection.
- Romans 8:14-15 (1201)—those who are lead by the Spirit of God are the Sons of God (14). According to verse 15 we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear. The Greek word translated bondage literally means slavery, the condition of a slave, according to *Strong's Concordance*.
 - Romans 8:21
 - Galatians 4:24 (1246)
 - Galatians 5:1—Paul often uses the word bondage to describe those who are seeking to live under the law.

The Spirit of Adoption

- Galatians 4:1-2 (1245)—a child that is a rich man's heir is no different from a servant though he stands to inherit his father's estate. The heir while he is still a child is under tutors and governors. The time when the heir would be released from tutors and governors was the decision of the father.
- Galatians 4:3—"Even So"—this phrase connects this verse with the illustration of verses one and two. Also notice once again that Paul uses the word "we." Remember that when Paul uses the word "we" in this epistles he is referring to Israel. Paul says that when Israel was children they were in bondage under the "elements of the world." The Greek word translated "elements" carries the idea of first principles or foundational premises. Paul is obviously referring to the elementary principles of the Mosaic Law.
 - Colossians 2:20-22 (1264)—the elementary things are touch not, taste not, and handle not. All of these elementary things are all associated with the physical world like Paul says in Galatians 4:3.

The Spirit of Adoption

- Romans 8:15 (1201)—is someone was in bondage under the “elements of the world,” i.e., the law did they have cause to fear? Yes because they were subject to punishments delineated in the law.
 - Hebrews 2:15 (1293)—“through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” The Law produced a sin-laden conscience in those who were in bondage under it, the obvious result was the fear of judgment and punishment.
- Romans 8:15—tells us that we have not receive this spirit of bondage, we don't need to be afraid of God today because we are the sons of God (verse 14). In place of the spirit of bondage we have received the Spirit of adoption. The Greek word translated adoption means 1) that relationship which God was pleased to establish between himself and the Israelites in preference to all other nations, 2) the nature and condition of the true disciples in Christ, who by receiving the Spirit of God into their souls become sons of God, according to *Strong's Concordance*.
 - Romans 9:4—one of the privileges that Israel enjoyed in time past was the adoption. They were nigh unto God while the Gentiles were without hope and without God in the world.

The Spirit of Adoption

- Romans 8:15—please notice that we have been given the “Spirit” of adoption. We have been adopted into the family of God by virtue of his indwelling Holy Spirit. This is how God is able to adopt the body of Christ and include Gentiles in what they were excluded from in time past.
- Galatians 4:4-5—“the fullness of time” corresponds with the time appointed of the father from verse 2. The basic idea here is when the time was right in the plan and purpose of God, Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary and was subject to the Law of Moses. God did this so that Christ could redeem Israel from the curse of the law. It is on the basis of this action and work of Christ that God redeemed humanity from the curse of law thereby making it possible that “we might receive the adoption of sons.”
- Adoption means the placing as a grown-up son. Biblical adoption, according to Paul, is not speaking about taking in or bringing up other people’s children as your own. Biblical adoption deals with the placing as sons those who were already children. Therefore adoption does not simply accept one into the family but is a declaration of full sonship, with all its rights and privileges.

The Spirit of Adoption

- Notice again the use of the word “we.” It was through the work of Christ that Israel was going to receive the adoption of sons.
- Exodus 4:22 (75)—this does not signify that Israel was a full grown son while in Egypt. It was in Egypt that the nation had been born.
- Hosea 11:1 (927)
- Jeremiah 31:32 (806)—until Israel came to the place where she could be given full sonship, God placed the nation under the tutors and governors of the law and its requirements. Israel left to herself, would never have reached the place of adoption. Thank God that adoption does not depend primarily upon the son’s attainments, but upon the father’s will.
- Romans 11:7 (1205)—Israel had become a rebellious son and even to this day remains out of God’s favor.

The Spirit of Adoption

- Romans 8:15—today during the dispensation of grace on the basis of the work of Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit we are adopted into the family of God and thereby given all the rights and privileges of fully grown adult children. It on this basis in the passage that we are made heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.
- The result of the adoption process is that as the Father's fully-grown son in Christ we are able to address God as Abba (father), Father. The idea here is one of intimacy. The believer today has the capacity to climb upon the lap of his heavenly father and say, "Hi daddy. Here is what is on my mind today."

— Galatians 4:6-7

The Spirit of Adoption

- Ephesians 1:3-5 (1249)—this “adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself” was part of the plan and program of God before the foundation of the world.

