

Sunday, July 2, 2023—Galatians 4:5-7 Understanding Biblical Adoption, Part 2

Galatians 4:6

- **And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.**
- Again, Paul switches from using the word “we” and starts using “ye.” Once again, Paul is talking to the entire Body of Christ, both Jews and Gentiles.
 - Galatians 2:15
 - Galatians 3:23-25
 - Galatians 3:26-28
- The verb translated “ye are” is in the present tense and means to state that fact that all the believers in the churches of Galatia have already received the “adoption of sons” that Israel nationally is still waiting for. The Body of Christ has already received the adoption of sons that Israel as a nation is still waiting for.
 - Romans 8:13-16
 - Ephesians 1:6-9, 11
- It is on account of the FACT that members of the body of Christ already “are sons” (*huios*) that God “hath sent forth (past tense) the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying (present tense), Abba, Father.” Notice once again, that it is not us that cries Abba Father, but the Spirit within us that utters forth this cry on a continuous basis.
- Romans 8:15—because the “Spirit of his Son” is in us we also have the ability to cry “Abba, Father.” Please recall the following from the pen of Willima R. Newell regarding the Greek word *huiotesia* rendered “adoption” in the King James Bible.
 - “In earthly affairs, “adoption” is the term applied to the selection as child and heir of one not born of us; and the execution of legal papers making such child our own, inheriting legal rights, etc. . . . But the word *huios* means, a child come of age; no longer “as a servant” (Galatians 4:7). And *huiotesia* means God’s recognizing them in that position! This will be consummated fully at the coming of Christ, when our bodies, redeemed, and fashioned anew, shall be conformed to Christ’s glorious body. Meanwhile, because we are already adult sons (*huioi*), God has given us a spirit of adult-sonship! No Jew called God “Father,” or “Abba”; but “Jehovah.” (Indeed) fearfulness, even prevented, generally, the use by the Jews of God’s memorial-name—Jehovah—for that nation: they called Him *Adonai*—“Lord.” (Newell, 217-218)

Galatians 4:7

- **Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**
- **Wherefore thou art no more a servant**—on the basis of the Father sending forth “the Spirit of his Son” into our hearts in verse 6, Paul can declare in verse 7 that we are no longer “servants” but “sons.”
 - Romans 8:9—every believer possesses the Spirit of Christ that is what makes one a son of God.
 - Please note that the “Spirit of his Son” was sent into the heart of every son. This fact coupled with Rom. 8:15 and Eph. 1:13-14 makes it difficult to see how believers would not be indwelt with the Holy Spirit as the proponents of SE have claimed. If the Holy Spirit has been sent into our hearts to cry Abba Father, how could believers not be indwelt with/by the Spirit of God?
- Romans 8:14-17—when we place our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit places us into Christ. Once we are in Christ, we become partakers of all that belongs to him. We are made joint heirs with Jesus Christ.
 - All believers are heirs of God (Rom 8:16, Gal 4:7) who inherit all things (Rom 8:32).
 - Christ is an heir of God who inherits all things (Heb 1:1-2).
 - Therefore, all believers must be "joint-heirs with Christ" because both are heirs of God who inherit all things (Rom 8:17).

Final Thoughts on Biblical Adoption

- Biblical adoption has nothing to do with a father adopting “his son for the purpose of installing and instilling his wisdom into his son so that the son would labor with his father in all his business.” All believers today in the dispensation of grace are adopted in the sense that:
 - We are all sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
 - We have been given the Spirit of adoption that cries Abba Father on our behalf and serves as the down payment that secures our future physical redemption.
 - We are not under the tutor and governor principle of the law because we are not children (*nēpios*) but sons (*huios*).
 - We wait patiently for the completion of our “adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”
- Adoption . . . is not entirely a past event. The legal declaration may have been made and the Spirit may have been given as a down payment, but the consummation of the adoption awaits the future,

for adoption includes “the redemption of the body” (Romans. 8:23). Thus, adoption is something hoped for as well as something already possessed. (P.H. Davids in Elwell, 25-26)

- Adoption then, is deliverance from the past (similar to regeneration and justification), a status and way of life in the present (walking by the Spirit, sanctification, not under tutors and governors), and a hope for the future (resurrection, the redemption of our body).
- Adoption describes the process of becoming a child/son of God and receiving an inheritance from God as one of his sons (Romans 8:17; Colossians 3:24).