

Women's Doctrinal Series

First Baptist Church, Paso Robles

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See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1

What is doctrine and why do we care?

- Doctrine is the whole teaching of the Bible on a given subject. It matters because right _____ (*mind*) leads to right _____ (*heart/soul*) which lead to right _____ (*strength*).
- 2 Peter 3:17-18

Assumptions:

- The Bible is:
 - _____: *The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, pg. 73)*
 - _____: *The inerrancy of Scripture means that the Bible always tells the truth, and...it always tells the truth concerning everything it talks about. This definition does not mean that the Bible tells us every fact there is to know about any one subject, but it affirms that what it does say about any subject is true. (Grudem 91)*
 - _____: *The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture...contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly. (Grudem 127)*

Ordo Salutis: Order of Salvation

The *logical* and *chronological* relationships between the various stages of the application of redemption. **Keep in mind that there may not be a gap in time between some stages, but that while some of these stages may be temporally simultaneous, meaning that they occur at the exact same moment, they are logically distinct.*



Foreknowledge (God's choice unto salvation)

Regeneration (the new birth)

Conversion (repentance and faith)

Justification (declaration of a right legal standing)

Adoption (placed into the family of God)

Sanctification (progressive growth in holiness)

Perseverance (remaining in Christ)

Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (Eph. 1:3) The Father has _____ us (Eph. 1:4), the Son has _____ us (Eph. 1:7), and the Spirit has _____ us (John 3:3-8; Eph. 1:13-14) and begotten divine spiritual life in us (John 6:63; cf. Ezek. 36:27; 37:14), giving us eyes to see the glory of Christ and the ruin of sin (2 Cor. 4:4, 6). As a result of that new birth, we experience _____, having been given the gifts of _____ (Acts 11:17-18; 2 Tim. 2:25) and _____ (Eph. 2:8.) Through _____, we are intimately united to Christ, such that all that is his becomes ours. We are _____--forgiven of all our sin and the eternal punishment we rightfully deserve and credited with the full righteousness of Christ himself, such that we can stand confidently (_____) before our holy God.

Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth, p. 624
John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, General Editors

Adoption

(Membership in God's Family)

What is Adoption?

- Definition:

*Adoption is an _____
whereby He makes us _____.*
(Grudem 736)

- Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Question 33: *What is Justification?*

*Adoption is an act of God's _____
whereby we are _____⁽¹⁾,
and have a right to all the _____⁽²⁾.*

- (1) 1 John 3:1--See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
- (2) John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.
Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**Note: The Westminster Shorter Catechism is a catechism, or summary of doctrine used to teach the tenants of the Christian faith to children and adults, written in 1646 and 1647 by the Westminster Assembly, a church council of English and Scottish theologians and laymen intended to bring the Church of England into greater conformity with the Church of Scotland.*

- Westminster Confession of Faith
 - Chapter 12 - Of Adoption.
 - Section 1.) All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for His only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption:(1) by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God;(2) have His name put upon them,(3) receive the Spirit of adoption;(4) have access to the throne of grace with boldness;(5) are enabled to cry, Abba, Father;(6) are pitied,(7) protected,(8) provided for,(9) and chastened by Him as by a Father;(10) yet never cast off,(11) but sealed to the day of redemption,(12) and inherit the promises,(13) as heirs of everlasting salvation.(14)
 - (1) Eph 1:5; Gal 4:4,5. (2) Ro 8:17; Jn 1:12. (3) Jer 14:9; 2Co 6:18; Rev 3:12. (4) Ro 8:15. (5) Eph 3:12; Ro 5:2. (6) Gal 4:6. (7) Ps 103:13. (8) Pr 14:26. (9) Mt 6:30,32; 1Pe 5:7. (10) Heb 12:6. (11) La 3:31. (12) Eph 4:30. (13) Heb 6:12. (14) 1Pe 1:3,4; Heb 1:14.

- *“Justification is a forensic idea, conceived in terms of law, and viewing God as judge. In justification, God declares of penitent believers that they are not, and never will be, liable to the death that their sins deserve, because Jesus Christ, their substitute and sacrifice, tasted death in their place on the cross.*

This free gift of acquittal and peace, won for us at the cost of Calvary, is wonderful enough, in all conscience--but justification does not of itself imply any intimate or deep relationship with God the judge. In idea, at any rate, you could have the reality of justification without any close fellowship with God resulting.

But contrast this, now, with adoption. Adoption is a family idea, conceived in terms of love, and viewing God as father. In adoption, God takes us into his family and fellowship--he establishes us as his children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is a greater.”

— J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 207

UNDERSTANDING GOD AS FATHER

You sum up the whole of New Testament teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator.

In the same way, you sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one's holy Father.

For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. 'Father' is the Christian name for God.

— J.I. Packer, Evangelical Magazine 7, pp. 19-20

- Table talk: Is God everyone's father? YES NO
 - Old Testament:
 - God is the Father of His own people, the seed of Abraham:
 - "Israel is my firstborn son,...'Let my son go'" (Ex. 4:22-23).
 - New Testament:
 - God is the Father of those who put their trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, so becoming Abraham's spiritual seed:
 - "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus...You are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed" (Gal. 3:26-29).
 - "No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn. 14:6).
 - Sonship is not universal or attained through natural birth, but rather through supernatural birth:
 - "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision of a husband's will, but born of God" (Jn. 1:12-13)

- Table talk: Can those who had human fathers who were inadequate, lacking in wisdom or affection (or both), or absent altogether, have any hope of understanding God as Father? YES NO
 - Consider the following in choosing your answer:
 - The origin of fatherhood:
 - “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named” (Eph. 3:14-15).
 - The standard of fatherhood:
 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

God has not left us to guess about what his fatherhood amounts to by drawing analogies from human fatherhood. He revealed the full meaning of this relationship once and for all through our Lord Jesus Christ, his own incarnate Son. We learn, in this one instance which is also a universal standard, what God’s fatherly relationship to us who are Christ’s really means. For God intends the lives of believers to be a reflection and reproduction of Jesus’ own fellowship with himself.

— J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 204

- Four implications of the fatherhood of God exemplified in His relationship with His Son:
 1. _____
 - “I (Jesus) have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me” (Jn. 6:38).
 2. _____
 - “For the Father loves the Son,” “the Father has loved me... I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love” (Jn. 5:20; 15:9-10).

3. _____

- “I am not alone, for my Father is with me,” “And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him” (Jn. 16:32; 8:29).

4. _____

- “For the Father...has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father” (Jn. 5:22-23).

UNDERSTANDING OUR SONSHIP

- The reality of our sonship
 - *The eternal Son of God himself traveled the infinite distance between heaven and earth, united the nature of God and the nature of man in his own person, and was forsaken by his Father so that we might be welcomed as sons.*

In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Eph. 1:4-6)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Gal. 4:4-5)

The peculiar glory of adoption is in the superabundance of God's grace. In an extravagant expression of love, God adopts believers into his family, so that we may relate to him not only as the Giver of spiritual life and the provider of legal righteousness but also as our loving and compassionate Father. For this reason, adoption has rightly been designated "the highest privilege that the gospel offers" and "the apex of grace and privilege" that "stagger imagination because of its amazing condescension and love." "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And so we are." (1 John 3:1) (MacArthur and Mayhue 625-626)

- The rights and rewards of sonship

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- My adoption is secured outside of me
 - "...but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:15-17).
 - My adoption is permanent
 - "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." (Jn. 10:28-29)

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- "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him" (Ps. 103:13).
 - "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God"—the electing, redeeming, paternal love of God—"that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39)

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- "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32)
 - "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:11-13)
 - So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them." (Matt. 6:31-32)

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- "In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge." (Pr. 14:26)

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 - “In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence” (Eph. 3:12).
 - Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God... Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence” (Heb. 4:14, 16).
 - “Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven...’” (Matt. 6:9)

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 - “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God” (Rom. 8:14).

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 - “And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, ‘My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as a son.’ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.” (Heb. 12:5-10)
 - *In this world, royal children have to undergo extra training and discipline which other children escape, in order to fit them for their high destiny. It is the same with the children of the King of kings. The clue to understanding all his dealings with them is to remember that throughout their lives he is training them for what awaits them, and chiseling them into the image of Christ.*
--J.I. Packer, Knowing God, p. 222

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 - Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them...For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever." (Heb. 7:25, 28)

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 - Estate
 - "...we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ..." (Rom. 8:16-17)
 - "So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir" (Gal. 4:7)
 - "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you" (1 Pet. 1:3-4)
 - *Our Father's wealth is immeasurable, and we are to inherit the entire estate.*
--J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 217
 - Character and Glory
 - "Co-heirs with Christ...that we may also share in his glory" (Rom. 8:17)
 - "Now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him." (1 Jn. 3:2)
 - Physical Glorified Body
 - "We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:23).

- The responsibilities of sonship: Instructions for the children of God's family

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 - Maintain the family honor (seeking God's Glory)
 - *One of the richest blessings of God's grace in salvation is that he attaches his name to his people...As children of God, we bear the "family name" of God, and as Isaiah says, his name is Holy.* (Isa. 57:15)
(MacArthur and Mayhue 631)

- “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name” (Matt. 6:9)
- “Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven” (Mt. 6:1)
- *While it is certainly true that justification frees one forever from the need to keep the law, or to try to, **as the means of earning life**, it is equally true that adoption lays on one the abiding obligation to keep the law, **as a means of pleasing one’s newfound Father**.*
--J.I. Packer, Knowing God, p.223

- Manifest the family likeness (conforming to Christ)

- “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” (Rom. 8:29)
- *Jesus fulfilled all righteousness, and God calls us to do likewise. Adoption puts law-keeping on a new footing: as children of God, we acknowledge the law’s authority as a rule for our lives {in the pattern of our Older Brother}, because we know that this is what our Father wants.*
--J.I. Packer, Knowing God, p.223

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- Further the family welfare (loving our brothers and sisters)

- “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another...Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor” (Rom 12:4-5, 9-10).
- *This concept of the church as God’s family should give us a new perspective on the work of the church; it is “family work,” and the various members of the family should never compete with each other or hinder one another in their efforts, but should encourage one another and be thankful for whatever good or whatever progress comes to any member of the family, for all are*

contributing to the good of the family and the honor of God our Father.
(Grudem 741)

- _____: A forward-looking faith
 - “For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God...For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience” (Rom 8:19-21, 24-25).
 - *The doctrine of adoption tells us that the experience of heaven will be of a family gathering, as the great host of the redeemed meet together in face-to-face fellowship with their Father-God and Jesus their brother. “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory” (Jn. 17:24). “They will see his face” (Rev. 22:4). “Then we shall see face to face” (1 Cor 13:12). “And so we will be forever with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:17).*
--J.I. Packer, Knowing God, p. 218

EVALUATING OUR UNDERSTANDING

- Questions for self-reflection
 - Do I daily remind myself of my privilege as a child of God?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
 - Am I fully assured of the permanency of my adoption?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
 - Do I daily dwell on the love of God to me?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
 - Do I treat God as my Father in heaven, loving, honoring and obeying him, seeking and welcoming his fellowship, and trying in everything to please him?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)

- Do I think of Jesus Christ, my Savior and my Lord, as my brother too, bearing to me not only a divine authority but also a divine-human sympathy?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
- Do I think daily on how close Jesus is to me, how completely he understands me, and how much, as my kinsman-redeemer, he cares for me?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
- Have I learned to hate the things that displease my Father?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
- Am I sensitive to the evil things to which my Father is sensitive?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
- Do I make a point of avoiding the evil things to which my Father is sensitive, lest I grieve Him?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
- Do I look forward daily to that great family occasion when the children of God will finally gather in heaven before the throne of God, their Father, and of the Lamb, their brother and their Lord? Have I felt the thrill of this hope?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
- Do I love my Christian brothers and sisters with whom I live day by day in a way that I shall not be ashamed of when in heaven I think back over it?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
- Am I proud of my Father, and of his family, to which by his grace I belong?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)
- Does the family likeness appear in me?
0 _____ 5 _____ 10
(never) (often) (always)

