

J. I. Packer, Knowing God (200)

"What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father."

Romans 8:12-17 (ESV)

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD RECEIVED THROUGH ADOPTION

1) The Cost of Adoption

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

John Piper, "Adoption: The Heart of the Gospel" Sermon (2007)

The deepest and strongest foundation of adoption is located not in the act of humans adopting humans, but in God adopting humans. And this act is not part of his ordinary providence in the world; it is at the heart of the gospel.

2) The Benefits of Adoption

1) THE PRIVILEGE TO CALL GOD "ABBA! FATHER!"

Mark 14:36 (ESV) - And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Neil T. Anderson, Victory over the Darkness (46)

"Being a Christian is not just a matter of getting something; it is a matter of being someone."

2) THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING HEIRS OF GOD'S INHERITANCE

1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV) - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

3) Experiencing Our Adoption

Charles Spurgeon

"The believer, like a man on shipboard, may fall again and again on the deck, but he will never fall overboard"

HOW CAN I BECOME A CHILD OF GOD?

John 1:12-13 (NIV) - 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.