

Romans 8:14-17 – Sanctity of Life '23: Adoption!

Introduction

1. The church must shine brighter than the culture of death: Christ is Life!
2. Our Culture
 - a. Pregnancy is an accident and children are an inconvenience
 - b. Careers over babies, No marriage means uncommitted men
 - c. Parents using their children as guinea pigs in gender war
 - d. Life is no longer valued; the world is fascinated with death
3. The Church: What is virtuous, beautiful, and true must be upheld
4. The gods of our culture
 - a. Freedom from responsibility, to be an autonomous individual, personal rights over what is good for the whole of society, relativism, feminism, postmodernism, and government provision
 - b. Personal gratification and the way to exterminate any consequence
5. The Christian Life promotes true, abundant life
 - a. Christ-centered family, churches, men and women which create Christ-centered societies full of truth
6. Adoption – the selfless act of giving a child hope and a good home; children have a right to life!
 - a. Legal adoption is an outworking of a spiritual truth in the Gospel, namely our spiritual adoption by the Father as His children
 - b. Adoption reflects the goodness of God in His care for His children

Main Idea The foundation for legal adoption in this world is the Biblical truth of a Christian's spiritual adoption out of this world. Our Father in Heaven loves His children. He delivers and justifies His children by His grace. But even further, our Father adopts His children into His family making them coheirs with Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. Christians are privileged... they are called children of God.

What We Were (Ephesians 2:1-3, 1 John 3:10)

1. Before Christ we were Children of Wrath
 - a. The Lord's justice laid upon us like a boulder of righteous fury
 - b. The Lord is a consuming fire, angry at sinners, at enmity with us
 - c. We followed the world and the Devil
 - d. Universal brotherhood and the idea of all people are God's children is a theological heresy
2. Before Christ we were Children of the Devil
 - a. God created people, but they are not automatically sons of God, but sons of Satan

What We Became (Romans 8:14-15)

1. The Grace of God at work: He sought us, in Christ removed the curses of the Law, redeemed us, and justified us in His sight
2. We were lost, indifferent to the Lord and His Kingdom; He found us
3. The Lord saved us and made us right in His sight – He took a slave and made a son and daughter of the Lord; a child of God, Adopted!

4. You are not just a citizen of the Kingdom, you are a royal family member of the King with rights and privileges others do not have
5. You are not a slave, but a son in God's house (**John 8:35**)
6. You are child of God through faith in Jesus (**Galatians 3:26**)
7. The Lord loves you, not because you had something to offer, but because you are His
8. Jesus did the work for us – living sinlessly in obedience to the Father and dying for our substitute
9. God's aim in redemption & justification: Bring you into His family

How We Know (Romans 8:16)

1. God renewed our heart to identify God as Father, Christ as Savior
2. The heart spiritually united to Christ is now family, led by the Spirit
3. There is a Trinitarian nature of the relationship is seen
4. God transfers us into His Kingdom – guilt is gone, peace is restored, Heaven's door is open, and Hell's door is shut

What Privileges We Have (Romans 8:17a)

1. Children of God receive an Inheritance, becoming fellow heirs with Christ Jesus: What Jesus receives by His obedience, you receive
2. What is the Nature of this Inheritance?
 - a. It is a Kingdom (**1 Corinthians 15:50**)
 - b. It is received by faith in the Messiah (**Galatians 3:18**)
 - c. It is eternal, kept in Heaven (**Hebrews 9:15**)
 - d. It is perfect, holy, clean, unpolluted (**1 Peter 1:3-4**)
3. What does the child of God receive?
 - a. The World (**Psalm 24:1, 2:7-8; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23**)
 - b. God (**Romans 5:2; Psalm 73:25-26; Revelation 21:3**)

Suffering As The Condition For Inheritance (Revelation 8:17b)

1. Life is hard & it serves a purpose; Christians are not immune to pain
2. Christ endured the Cross knowing glory was on the other side
3. What the Master goes through, His subjects go through
4. There is no gain without pain, no crown without the cross, and no inheritance without suffering (**Lk 9:23, 2 Tim 3:12, Heb 12:6-7, 1 Pet 4:13**)
5. Through many troubles, trials, famines, and persecutions do we finally enter into the Kingdom of God; the narrow road is rocky and rough
6. Glory is on the other side!

Suppose a man was going to New York to take possession of a large estate, and his [carriage] should break down a mile before he got to the city, which obliged him to walk the rest of the way; what a fool we should think him, if we saw him ringing his hands, and blubbering out all the remaining mile, "My [carriage] is broken! My [carriage] is broken!" (Richard Cecil, *Memoirs of the Rev. John Newton*, in *The Works of the Rev. John Newton*, 108)