

Press Kit for **Reclaiming Adoption: Missional Living Through the Rediscovery of Abba Father**

Dan Cruver, Editor

Endorsements:

Reclaiming Adoption captures the heart and soul of what it means to be a child of God. Make no mistake, this isn't simply a book on adoption. It's about the reason we were created and how we are to spend the rest of our days loving others."

—Tom Davis, *Author of Fields of the Fatherless*

"There is no greater need in our day than theological clarity. We live in a pragmatic, hype-driven, emotionally manipulated spiritual landscape. We need the ancient wisdom of the Bible, not another business book or glory story from some cool church. Dan has brought us near to the heart of God, who by His Spirit cries out in our hearts, 'Abba, Father.' As you read this book, you will sense the need to embrace your own acceptance as God's adopted son or daughter."

—Darrin Patrick, *Pastor and author*

"A stirring call to be involved in the ministry of adoption for Jesus' sake. Gospel-centered. Prophetic. Practical. ***Reclaiming Adoption*** addresses an issue that has transformed our church as much as any other."

—J.D. Greear, *Pastor and author*

"Jesus protects the fatherless and the widow. And Jesus isn't dead anymore. The Spirit of Christ is afoot in the churches of the Lord Jesus all over the world, pulling us into Jesus' mission for the orphan, the stranger, the marginalized. This book is part of that pull. The authors writing here are some of the most fearless thinkers and activists in the Christian orphan care movement. Read. Be empowered. And then join Jesus for the orphans of the world."

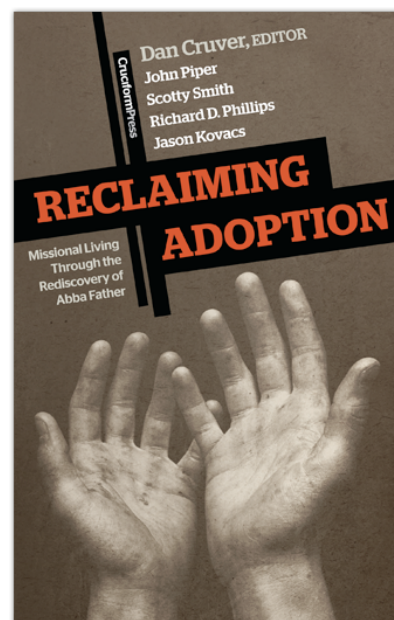
—Russell D. Moore, *Pastor and author of Adopted for Life*

"If you want your church to be a church for the great commission and for the orphan, reading ***Reclaiming Adoption*** is where you need to start."

—Matt Carter, *Pastor, Austin Stone*

"Many Christians today would not invest much time toward thinking about adopting an orphan. It is not unrelated that the doctrine of adoption is sadly one of the most overlooked doctrines amongst Christians today. It is into this void that ***Reclaiming Adoption*** speaks so powerfully and reclaims the central place that adoption must take in the thinking of any child of God. ***Reclaiming Adoption*** is a must read; it will tell your head who you are and move your heart to live in response."

—Steve Chong, *Director of the Rice movement, Sydney Australia*



"The biblical mandate to care for orphans in distress is unequivocal. But mandate alone cannot serve as the fountainhead of motivation for obedience, especially in a realm of such crushing need and difficulty. Rather, we must be animated by a flooding sense of responsive gratitude at how God first loved, pursued, and adopted us. Dan Cruver consistently draws us back to this supreme truth and helps us see its power and beauty. He reminds the burgeoning movement of Christians committed to caring for orphans that it always must be the love of Christ that compels us. Any lesser motivation will ultimately run dry. It is the Gospel alone that can carry us forward, amidst both celebration and struggle, for a lifetime of response to God's call to 'defend the fatherless' through adoption, foster care and orphan care across the globe."

—*Jedd Medefind, President, Christian Alliance for Orphans*

"I can't recall ever hearing about, much less reading, a book like this before. Simply put, this remarkable volume by Dan Cruver and his co-authors fills a much-needed gap in our understanding of what the Bible says both about God's adoption of us and our adoption of others. What you read here will do more than inform your mind. Yes, it will do that in a wonderfully biblical way, but it will also convict your heart, energize your will, and inflame your affections as you contemplate what God has done in making you His child. I highly recommend it."

—*Sam Storms, Pastor and author*

"***Reclaiming Adoption*** is the best kind of theological work: it sings and it sends! As I read, I wanted to praise the Triune God for his great love. Then I felt the urgency of the call to live that love among the world's orphans. Completely accessible and appealing to ordinary Christians, ***Reclaiming Adoption*** is thoroughly grounded in Scripture and flows from the great heart of the Church's historic understanding of the Word. The authors have uncovered new depths and fresh passion in expressing how adoption clarifies the meaning of our union with Christ. Too much evangelical theology today is shallow and powerless because it arises from an abridged gospel. ***Reclaiming Adoption*** expands our vision to the fuller glory of the whole narrative of Christ's work. Thus, this book can transform the worship, education and mission of any church bold enough to explore its truth."

—*Gerrit Dawson, Pastor and author*

"***Reclaiming Adoption*** grounds our understanding and support of horizontal adoption in the biblical understanding of our vertical adoption; and it engages heart and head in the process. I am the prodigal, the rebel, the orphan that my Father in heaven redeemed to call "son" and to love forever. And through the adoption of children I have the opportunity to proclaim that redemption and love to the world! ***Reclaiming Adoption*** renews my passion for orphan care by reminding me of God's unending care for me."

—*Shaun Groves, Nashville-based Singer-Songwriter; Manager for CompassionBloggers.com*

"Fear never produces faithful outreach. Doubt does not drive acts of compassion. Those who view God as a harsh master will not be mobilized for mercy ministry. ***Reclaiming Adoption*** is a joyous call for believers to return from the 'far-country' of fear, doubt, and estrangement from God and, instead, to live in the reality of their glorious adoption in Christ. This book helps us to see that the adopting love of the Triune God is the only lens through which we can make sense of the broken stories of our lives. And by daily delighting in the communion of the Father's love, we are empowered to move outward in mission to the broken world around us. Make no mistake, O Christian, you are loved by God!"

—*Scott Anderson, Executive Director, Desiring God*

Media Inquiries:

To request a media interview, please contact Together for Adoption at dan.cruver@TogetherforAdoption.org — Be sure to identify who you are, the name of your publication/station, blog, the circulation/readership/or audience size of your publication or station, and the nature of your request.

Publisher's Description

One of the ambitious dreams that ***Reclaiming Adoption*** and its authors share with the Apostle Paul is that when Christians hear the word “adoption,” they will think first about their adoption by God. As it now stands, Christians usually think first about the adoption of children. ***Reclaiming Adoption*** sets out to change this situation by providing breathtaking views of God’s love for and delight in His children—views that will free you to live boldly in this world from God’s acceptance, not in order to gain it. ***Reclaiming Adoption*** begins by examining Jesus’ Parable of the Prodigal Son because it ultimately puts God the Father’s love on display—a love that embraces the younger son with uninhibited joy (Luke 15:20) and goes out to entreat the self-righteous older son to come join the celebration (Luke 15:28). ***Reclaiming Adoption*** believes that behind the Parable of the Prodigal Son(s) is Scripture’s teaching on adoption. The story of the Bible is that God the Father sent His only true and eternal Son on a mission, and that mission was to bring many wayward and rebellious sons home to glory (Hebrews 2:10), to adopt them into His family. That is the Story behind the story of the Prodigal Sons. That is the only story that gives our stories any meaning or significance.

Dan Cruver and his co-authors are convinced that if Christians learn to first think about their adoption by God, and only then about the adoption of children, they will enjoy deeper communion with the God who is love, and experience greater missional engagement with the pain and suffering of this world. That's what this book is about. What the orphan, the stranger, and the marginalized in our world need most is churches that are filled with Christians who live daily in the reality of God’s delight in them. ***Reclaiming Adoption*** can transform the way you view and live in this world for the glory of God and the good of our world’s most needy.

114 Pages

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About the Authors

Dan Cruver and his wife, Melissa, are parents of a multi- ethnic family of three children. Dan is the director of Together for Adoption, an organization that provides gospel-centered resources to mobilize the church for global orphan care. Dan is a frequent conference speaker and writer. He has a M.S. in Counseling and 90+ hours toward a Ph.D. in Theology. Prior to directing Together for Adoption, Dan was a college professor of Bible and Theology and a Pastor of Family Ministries.

John Piper is the Pastor for Preaching at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, and studied at Wheaton College, where he first sensed God’s call to enter the ministry. John is the author of more than 30 books and more than 25 years of his preaching and teaching is available free at desiringGod.org. John and his wife, Noël, have four sons, one daughter, and an increasing number of grandchildren.

Scotty Smith is Founding Pastor of Christ Community Church in Franklin, Tennessee and a Council member with The Gospel Coalition. Scotty has written five books: *Unveiled Hope*, with Michael Card; *Speechless*, with Steven Curtis Chapman; *Objects of His Affection*; *The Reign of Grace*; and *Restoring Broken Things*, with Steven Curtis Chapman.

Richard D. Phillips is Senior Minister of Second Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina. God has called him to a writing ministry and he regularly authors books and articles. Among his twenty-one books, his most recent include a commentary on Zechariah, Jesus the Evangelist, and most recently What's So Great About the Doctrines of Grace.

Jason Kovacs is the Director of Ministry Development for The ABBA Fund, a ministry that provides financial resources to Christian couples and churches to help make adoption possible. He also serves on staff as Pastor of Care and Counseling at the Austin Stone Community Church. He and his wife live in Austin, Texas with their five children (four adopted and one biological child). Prior to the ABBA Fund, Jason served as a director of a biblical counseling center and as a pastor in Charlotte and Minneapolis.

**For more information about Together for Adoption and its efforts to mobilize churches for global orphan care, visit <http://www.TogetherforAdoption.org>.*

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Author Pictures



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