

Together for Adoption Conference 2008

The Good News of Adoption

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Ephesians 1:4-5

Introduction: What have we been saved to?

I. The Foundations of Our Salvation in God's Eternal, Sovereign Will

- A. Our foundation in God's election and foundation
- B. The blessings God has willed for those He has chosen in Christ: election, holiness, forgiveness, knowledge of His will, adoption.
- C. God has eternally willed that we would be adopted in Christ!

II. Divine (Vertical) Adoption

- A. The Roman practice of adoption
- B. A Radical change of status: a declaration God makes concerning us.
- C. Not a change in nature, but a change in status
- D. Previous debts and allegiances severed
- E. Full membership in God's family/No second-class children! (Eph. 5:1)

III. Good News for the Present

- A. Access to the Father (Eph. 2:18) - Q: What makes my prayers work?
- B. God's care and provision (Lk. 11:11-13) - Q: How do I deal with anxiety and trouble?
- C. Fatherly discipline (Heb. 12:5-11) - Q: What is God interested in for my life?
- D. Obligations of Divine adoption:
 - 1. Bearing the Father's name
 - 2. Doing the Father's will / Obeying the Father's commands
 - 3. Taking up the cause of the Father's kingdom
 - 4. Conflict with old family inevitable!

IV. Good News for the Future

- A. Heirs of all the Father's goods (Eph. 1:11, 17-18).
- B. Co-heirs together with Christ (Rom. 8:17) - Q: What do I have to look forward to?
- C. Adoption is incomplete in this present world (Rom. 8:19-21).
- D. Knowledge of our inheritance has power to change our present lives (Eph. 1:16-19).

V. God's Manner of Adopting

- A. What kind of people does God adopt? (Eph. 2:1-3)
- B. God's redeeming power for His adopted children (Eph. 2:4-7, 10).
- C. What is the principle by which God adopts? (Eph. 2:8-9)

Conclusion: Human (Horizontal Adoption) as Picture of Divine (Vertical) Adoption / Divine (Vertical) Adoption as the Motive for Human (Horizontal) Adoption