

TOGETHER *for* ADOPTION

*Exploring the Highest Blessing
of the Gospel*

REGIONAL
CONFERENCES

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WHAT IS TOGETHER FOR ADOPTION?

Together for Adoption (T4A) sponsors regional adoption conferences that focus primarily on vertical adoption (i.e., God adopting us as His children), with a secondary focus on its implications for orphan care and horizontal adoption (i.e., couples adopting children). In fulfillment of our primary objective, we desire to see conference attendees walk away from a T4A event:

- *understanding* why it is that vertical adoption is the highest blessing of the gospel
- *rejoicing* afresh in the gospel of grace
- *moved* to greater action on James 1:27 both locally and globally.

T4A's secondary focus is to explore how the great provision of our vertical adoption should impact the church's involvement in orphan care and adoption ministry. We are convinced that a greater understanding of vertical adoption within the Christian community will substantially increase interest in and passion for orphan care and horizontal adoption. The more we comprehend the grace and love extended to us through our adoption in Christ, the more passionate we will be about caring for orphans in their affliction (James 1:27). Good and robust theology leads to good and robust action.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOSPEL

In his book *Knowing God*, J. I. Packer identifies adoption as the highest blessing of the

gospel because of the relationship that it secures for those who believe in Christ—a filial relationship with God the Father and His Son. God's gracious work of adoption is an enlarging of the circle of communion that has eternally existed between the three Persons of the Trinity. The good news of the gospel is that God the Father brings us to share in the loving communion that He enjoys with His eternal and natural Son through the work of His eternal and natural Son. It is T4A's passion to explore and articulate this wonderful truth "to the praise of [God's] glorious grace" (Ephesians 1:6).

THE TRAVESTY OF BEING AN ORPHAN

To be an orphan is to be a human being without filial relationships. Scripture is clear: we were created by God to enjoy a filial relationship with God and other human beings. We were made for filial relationships—and this is why we believe that God is so passionate about His people caring for orphans and why being an earthly orphan is such a travesty. T4A wants Christians to recognize that there is an entire theology of adoption behind, underneath, and around Scripture's concern for orphans that really needs to be explored and articulated.

GOD'S PASSION FOR ADOPTION . . . AND ADOPTION.

Over the past several years it has been exciting to see much orphan care and adoption ministry work within the

church, flowing out of a deep commitment to James 1:27 and Old Testament Scripture passages that speak of God's concern for orphans (Psalm 68:5-6a; Psalm 10:14, 17-18; Deut. 10:17-19, etc). More and more churches are taking these texts seriously.

But why does God stress caring for orphans in their affliction? We are convinced that "big-A adoption" is what is behind these orphan-care texts and what should ultimately drive the Christian's James 1:27 involvement in orphan care and earthly adoption.

WILL YOU PARTNER WITH US?

T4A's goal is to see churches partnering together with established orphan care and adoption organizations that recognize the importance of theological adoption, in order to sponsor regional adoption conference events. Ultimately, we believe that these conferences will help serve the church in fulfilling its responsibility to visit orphans in their affliction. For more information about Together for Adoption regional adoption conferences in general or on how your church may partner with us, contact Dan Cruver at dan.cruver@TogetherforAdoption.org or 864.268.0570 or Jason Kovacs at jason@abbafund.org.

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