

Doctrine of Adoption

1. The Biblical usage of the term “adoption” and its concept is found in the writings of Paul in three main passages.
 - *Romans 8:15-17 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*
 - *Galatians 4:4-6 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*
 - *Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.*
2. The meaning of Paul in a theological sense is that in sovereign grace God restores penitent and believing souls to their privileges as members of the divine family and makes them heirs of heaven.
3. By nature and by choice individuals have forfeited and lost their state and privileges as children of God. However, a proper place in the family of God may be fully enjoyed by way of the new birth.
4. When a person is regenerated or born again they are then restored (adopted) to fellowship and are legitimate heirs to all of the family possessions.
5. God’s merciful forgiveness of sins would be empty without restoration to the privileges forfeited by sin.
6. Adoption is a word of position rather than relationship. The believer's relation to God as a child results from the new birth (John 1:12-13), whereas adoption is the divine act whereby one who is already a child is, through redemption from the law, placed in the position of an adult or mature son and so is able to transact the affairs of the household.
 - *Galatians 4:1-5 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*