

GraceLife Church Presents . . .

Soteriology

The Purpose,
Accomplishment, Plan, and
Application of Redemption

The Application of Redemption

Introduction to Adoption

- ❖ Last week we introduced the final element in the instantaneous aspects of salvation.
- ❖ Regeneration, Conversion, Justification, and Adoption all occur virtually simultaneously in time.
 - ❖ Logically, they occur in the above order.

The Application of Redemption

Introduction to Adoption

- ❖ Adoption is the capstone grace in the application of redemption.
- ❖ Of all the things that God does to us and for us in our salvation adoption is the high point.
- ❖ Everything up to this point prepares us for this grace.
- ❖ Everything that comes after this (sanctification, perseverance, and glorification) flows from adoption.

The Application of Redemption

Introduction to Adoption

- ❖ The Definition of Adoption.
- ❖ The Distinction of Adoption from Regeneration and Justification.
- ❖ The Work of the Trinity in Adoption.
- ❖ The Transfer of Adoption.
- ❖ The Benefits of Adoption.
- ❖ The Amazing Reality of Adoption.
- ❖ The Connection of Adoption to Sanctification.

The Application of Redemption

Introduction to Adoption

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The Application of Redemption

The Definition of Adoption

- ❖ Adoption is a legal act of God the Father in which he adopts a regenerated and justified believer into his family, thus transferring them out of the family of the devil and granting them all the privileges and rights of their new status as God's children.

The Application of Redemption

The Definition of Adoption

“Question 34. What is adoption?”

Answer: Adoption is an act of God’s free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.”

The Application of Redemption

The Definition of Adoption

- ❖ Adoption adds to the idea of the new birth by communicating additional blessings in our redemption like . . .
 - ❖ the transfer from one domain to another, from one family to another.
 - ❖ the (legal) change of status.
 - ❖ the benefits that flow from that change of status.

The Application of Redemption

The Definition of Adoption

“These different ways in which Scripture speaks of their filial relation to God [born from above, married to Christ, adopted into the family of God] are intended to aid our feeble conceptions when we think upon the grand, ineffable blessing: one mode of expression supplying, in some degree, the ideas that are lacking in another.”

Abraham Booth, “Grace Reigns in Adoption,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 19.

The Application of Redemption

The Definition of Adoption

“We must not think of adoption as a kind of second-class relationship, as some may perceive it in our day. Rather, in ancient times the adopted child was often the most wanted and honored, chosen in many cases because he was unique and desirable.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 626, n. 155.

The Application of Redemption

The Definition of Adoption

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

“Meant [in classical times] ‘beloved’ or ‘contented’ but particularly referred to an only child to whom the parents had devoted all their love. In other words, because the child had received so much love, the child had the security of being loved and thus was contented.”

Harold Hoehner, *Ephesians*, 645.

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

“Believers must realize God’s ability to extend his love to each of his children as if he or she were the only child. . . . Therefore, believers are to be imitators of God as ones who are his beloved children because of his love which has been experienced in Christ.”

Harold Hoehner, *Ephesians*, 646.

The Application of Redemption

The Distinction of Adoption

- ❖ Adoption has similarities with regeneration and justification and it is also distinct from both of these realities as well.
- ❖ In regeneration we are ‘born-again,’ ‘made new creatures’ in Christ, ‘made alive with Christ’ and yet we are not born-again into the family of God.
- ❖ We are adopted into the family of God.

The Application of Redemption

The Distinction of Adoption

- ❖ Regeneration is a change of our nature whereas adoption involves no change of our nature whatsoever.
- ❖ Without regeneration God would be adopting beasts into his family.
- ❖ Adoption is a legal declaration like justification.

The Application of Redemption

The Distinction of Adoption

- ❖ In justification we are declared 'righteous' and 'forgiven.'
- ❖ In adoption we are declared 'sons and daughters of God.'
- ❖ Adoption is distinct and yet can never be separated from justification or regeneration.

The Application of Redemption

The Trinity in Adoption

- ❖ The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each involved in adoption.
- ❖ The Father adopts through faith in *the* Son and the Holy Spirit indwells the sons of God giving them assurance that they are the children of God.

The Application of Redemption

The Trinity in Adoption

The Father

1 John 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. . .

The Application of Redemption

The Trinity in Adoption

The Son

Rom 8:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ. . .

The Application of Redemption

The Trinity in Adoption

The Holy Spirit

Gal 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

The Application of Redemption

The Transfer of Adoption

- ❖ The idea of a transfer from one sphere to another is where adoption really shines above regeneration, justification, or a any other aspect of salvation.
- ❖ The believer goes *from* one sphere *to* another.
- ❖ We go *from* one family *to* another.

The Application of Redemption

The Transfer of Adoption

- ❖ Before salvation we were *in* Adam. We belonged to his family.
- ❖ We were also considered . . .
 - ❖ children of the devil.
 - ❖ sons of disobedience.
 - ❖ children of wrath.

The Application of Redemption

The Transfer of Adoption

“Adoption is that act of God, whereby men who were by nature children of wrath, even as others, and were of the lost and ruined family of Adam, are from no reason in themselves, but entirely of the pure grace of God, translated out of the evil and black family of Satan and brought actually and virtually into the family of God; so that they take His name, share the privileges of sons, and they are to all intents and purposes the actual offspring and children of God.”

Charles Spurgeon, “An Act of Pure Grace,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 9–10.

The Application of Redemption

The Transfer of Adoption

“But inasmuch as I have no right whatever to be a child of God and can by no possibility claim so high a privilege in and of myself, adoption is the pure, gratuitous effect of divine grace and of that alone. . . Above all contradiction and controversy, that great and glorious act whereby God makes us of His family and unites us to Jesus Christ as our covenant head so that we may be His children is an act of pure grace.”

Charles Spurgeon, “An Act of Pure Grace,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 10.

The Application of Redemption

The Transfer of Adoption

“With what gratitude should we remember that, though we were of the very lowest original, grace has put us into the number of the Savior’s family. . . . If a king should adopt any into his family, it would likely be the son of one of his lords—at any rate, some child of respectable parentage. He would scarce take the son of some common felon or some gypsy child to adopt him into his family; but God, in this case, has taken the very worst to be His children!”

Charles Spurgeon, “An Act of Pure Grace,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 10.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

- ❖ There are at least 8 benefits that Scripture ties to our adoption.
- ❖ These things flow out of (*result*) adoption or come to us *because* we are adopted.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

“All those that are justified God vouchsafeth [gives or grants in a gracious manner], in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption; by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God; have his name put upon them; receive the Spirit of adoption; have access to the throne of grace with boldness; are enabled to cry, Abba, Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.”

Westminster Confession of Faith, XII.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

- ❖ (1) The Presence of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ (2) Intimacy with God.
- ❖ (3) Relationships with Other Believers.
- ❖ (4) Answered Prayer.
- ❖ (5) Eternal Inheritance.
- ❖ (6) Loving Discipline.
- ❖ (7) Assurance of Salvation.
- ❖ (8) Eternal Security.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

The Presence of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ The Holy Spirit of God indwells every true believer *because* they are sons (or daughters) of God.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is working in our lives prior to our adoption as sons but once we are adopted God sends him to seal and indwell us.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

The Presence of the Holy Spirit

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **5** so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” **7** Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

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- ❖ The Son came and fulfilled the law that He might redeem those who were under law.
- ❖ That redemption includes receiving ‘the adoption as sons’.
- ❖ God then sends ‘the Spirit of His Son’ into our hearts *because we are sons.*

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **5** so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” **7** Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

- ❖ There is a type of freedom that comes because we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
- ❖ We were formerly slaves—slaves to sin and ‘under’ the law but now that we are sons we are no longer slaves.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

The Presence of the Holy Spirit

Rom 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

Rom 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

- ❖ This verse looks backwards on the same reality described in Galatians 4:6. If you are led by the Spirit of God you are a son of God.
- ❖ Putting these 2 verses together: if you are redeemed God sent the Spirit into your heart, that Spirit now leads you and if he leads you you know that you are a son of God
- ❖ This indwelling of the Spirit releases us from slavery (of fear, of sin, of the penalty (curse) of the law, of the law as a source of our righteousness (Rom 10:4).

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

The Presence of the Holy Spirit

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commmits sin is the slave of sin. **35** “The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. **36** “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

The Presence of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ If you are born-again, you have:
 - ❖ turned from sin,
 - ❖ believed in Christ,
 - ❖ been justified (declared righteous),
 - ❖ been adopted as sons,
 - ❖ and because you are adopted God sent the Holy Spirit into your heart setting you free!

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

The Presence of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ The Holy Spirit works on both ends of this salvation.
- ❖ He gives life in regeneration (John 3:1–8) and he comes to indwell us because we are adopted (Gal 4:4-6; Rom 8:14–17).

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

The Presence of the Holy Spirit

“The chief blessing of our adoption is that the Holy Spirit himself takes up permanent residence in our hearts, freeing us from sin and fostering our fellowship with God.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 628.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Intimacy with God

- ❖ We have a level of intimacy with God, not only because He dwells in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, but also because we are the children of the Father, and the brethren of the Son.
- ❖ There is no closer human relationship than the family relationship.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Intimacy with God

- ❖ God could not have brought us closer to himself!

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Intimacy with God

Eph 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Intimacy with God

“So intimate is our bond with the God of the universe that the Spirit compels us to cry out to him with childlike affection, ‘Abba! Father!’ An informal Aramaic term for ‘father,’ *Abba* signifies the most endearing tenderness and intimacy between a father and a son.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 628.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Intimacy with God

- ❖ *Abba* is used only 3 times in the New Testament.
 - ❖ We already looked at Galatians 4:6 and Romans 8:15.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Intimacy with God

Mark 14:36 And He was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.”

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Intimacy with God

“It is nothing short of staggering to think that we who were once alienated from God because of our sin have been given the privilege of crying out to the Father in the very same way that his beloved Son did. The glory of that thought is exceeded only by the reality that his cry of ‘Abba’ was ignored so that ours would be heard.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 628.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Relationships with Other Believers

“[the] privileges of adoption . . . affect the way that we relate to each other and affect our own personal conduct. Because we are God’s children, our relationship with each other is far deeper and more intimate than the relationship that angels, for example, have to one another, for we are all *members of one family*. Many times the new Testament refers to Christians as ‘brothers’ and ‘sisters’ in Christ (Rom 1:13; 8:12; 1 Cor 1:10; 6:8; Jas 1:2; Matt 12:50; Rom 16:1; 1 Cor 7:15; Phlm 1:2; Jas 2:15).”

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 741.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Relationships with Other Believers

“The designation ‘brother’ is so common in the epistles that it seems to be the predominant way in which the New Testament authors refer to the other Christians to whom they are writing.”

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 741.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Relationships with Other Believers

“The paternity of God, the filiation of believers, the fraternity of all the saints, the household of faith, the family of God in heaven and earth, make a circle of domestic ideas that the Christian values above all the gold of Egypt, above all the gold of the world.”

Robert Webb, “The Importance of Adoption,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 3.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Answered Prayer

- ❖ Jesus taught his disciples to pray to God as 'Father' and that they should anticipate God answering those prayers in the same way that they would answer the requests of their children.
- ❖ One of the greatest encouragement we have in prayer is that God will answer us as his beloved children.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Answered Prayer

Matt 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8** “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. **9** “Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? **10** “Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? **11** “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Answered Prayer

Luke 11:1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.” **2** And He said to them, “When you pray, say:

‘Father, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. . . .

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Answered Prayer

Luke 11:5 Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.’ 8 “I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Answered Prayer

Luke 11:9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **10** “For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Answered Prayer

Luke 11:11 “Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? **12** “Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? **13** “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Inheritance

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Inheritance

Gal 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Inheritance

“Everything that Christ will receive by divine right as the natural Son of God, we will receive by divine grace as adoptive children of God.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 631.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Inheritance

1 Cor 3:21 So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, **22** whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, **23** and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Inheritance

“In a similar way, though by nature we had no rightful claim to all the riches of the kingdom of God, by grace we have become God’s adopted children and have thus become legal heirs of ‘an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven’ for us (1 Pet 1:4).”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 630.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Inheritance

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Inheritance

“and since this inheritance still awaits them in the future, also their adoption in its totality is still an object of hope (Rom 8:23).”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:227.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Inheritance

Rom 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. **8:20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. **23** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Fatherly Discipline

Heb 12:5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,
NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,
AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? **8** But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Fatherly Discipline

Heb 12:9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? **10** For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us for our* good, so that we may share His holiness. **11** All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Fatherly Discipline

- ❖ This discipline is part of what God uses to keep us faithful until the end (perseverance).
- ❖ Adoption guarantees discipline, discipline guarantees our holiness, which in turn guarantees our inheritance.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Fatherly Discipline

Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. **15** See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Assurance of Salvation

Rom 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” **16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Security

“The last point is the certainty and the security of it all. . . . If God has adopted you into His family, if you are a child of God, your destiny is secure, it is certain. . . . It is a guarantee. If God has taken me into the family, I am not only a child, I am an heir, and nothing can ever rob me of my inheritance.”

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Security

- ❖ God does not adopt us and then send us back into slavery to be adopted again.
- ❖ Adoption is founded on the grace of God, a grace that began in eternity past and continues forever.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

Eternal Security

Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Application of Redemption

The Benefits of Adoption

- ❖ (1) The Presence of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ (2) Intimacy with God.
- ❖ (3) Relationships with Other Believers.
- ❖ (4) Answered Prayer.
- ❖ (5) Eternal Inheritance.
- ❖ (6) Fatherly Discipline.
- ❖ (7) Assurance of Salvation.
- ❖ (8) Eternal Security.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

- ❖ Adoption is the highest privilege of our salvation.
- ❖ We have become the sons and daughters of God, part of his family, members of his household, heirs of all that belongs to him, co-heir with Jesus Christ.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“If the bestowal of God’s gifts stopped at regeneration and justification, no one would question his goodness or regard his grace as deficient. But the peculiar glory of adoption is in the superabundance of God’s grace. . . . For this reason, adoption has rightly been designated ‘the highest privilege that the gospel offers.’ [J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*]”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 626.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“The conception of God as Father is the most charming and transporting thought that ever enters the bosom of man; and the correlative conception of himself as the son of God is the most soothing and satisfying thought that a sinner ever finds himself indulging concerning himself.”

Robert Webb, “The Importance of Adoption,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 3.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“This is surely the apex of grace and privilege. . . .

It staggers imagination because of its amazing condescension and love. . . . It is only as there is the conjunction of the witness of revelation and the inward witness of the Spirit in our hearts that we are able to scale this pinnacle of faith and say with filial confidence and love, Abba Father.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 626.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“The wonder of God’s love in adopting us will appear the more if we consider these six things:”

Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, 234.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“(i) That God should adopt us when he had a Son of his own. Men adopt because they want children, and desire to have some to bear their name; but that God should adopt us when he had a Son of his own, the Lord Jesus is the wonder of love. . . .

Now, since God had a Son of his own, and such a Son, how wonderful God’s love in adopting us! We needed a Father, but he did not need sons.”

Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, 234–5.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“(ii) Consider what we were before God adopted us. We were very deformed; and a man will scarce adopt him for his heir that is crooked and ill-favoured, but rather him that has some beauty. . . . God did not adopt us when we were bespangled with jewels of holiness, and had the angels’ glory upon us; but when we were black as Ethiopians, diseased as lepers, was the time of his love.”

Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, 235.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“(iii) That God should be at so great an expense in adopting us. When men adopt, they have only some deed sealed, and the thing is effected; but when God adopts, it puts him to a far greater expense; it sets his wisdom to work to find a way to adopt us. It was no easy thing to make heirs of wrath, heirs of promise. . . . he could not seal the deed but by the blood of his own dear Son. Here is the wonder of God’s love in adopting us, that he should be at all this expense to accomplish it.”

Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, 235.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“(iv) That God should adopt his enemies. If a man adopts another for his heir, he will not adopt his mortal enemy; but that God should adopt us, when we were not only strangers, but enemies, is the wonder of love. For God to have pardoned his enemies had been much; but to adopt them for his heirs, sets the angels in heaven wondering.”

Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, 235.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“(v) That God should take great numbers out of the devil’s family, and adopt them into the family of heaven. Christ is said to bring many sons to glory (Heb 2:10). Men adopt usually one heir, but God is resolved to increase his family, he brings many sons to glory.”

Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, 235.

The Application of Redemption

The Amazing Reality of Adoption

“(vi) That God should confer so great honour upon us, in adopting us. David thought is no small honour that he should be the king’s son-in-law (1 Sam 18:18). But what honour to be the sons of the high God! The more honour God has put upon us in adopting us, the more he has magnified his love towards us. . . . All this proclaims the wonder of God’s love in adopting us.”

Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, 235–36.

