

Intro: Ricky's 3rd Gotcha Day in one week, Dec. 2nd! Adoption is a closely held truth to our hearts. The plan, the price, and the perks of adoption.

The Plan of Adoption

1. God decided beforehand...
 - a. Προοριδίζω from προ = before, and ορίζω = appoint or delineate by setting limits
 - i. Predestine is to mark out the limits and appoint the subject to certain foremarked plan or status
 - ii. Adoption as sons
 - iii. The onus is on the actor, here...GOD
 1. He appoints with power
 2. On the basis of His choice
 - a. εκλεγω is the finite verb
 - i. aorist indicative
 - b. προοριζω is the infinite verb
 - i. aorist participle
 - b. The inclusion of the elect into the family of God was decided by God alone
 - i. He made this choice beforehand, that is before the foundations of the world
 - ii. Election is the eternal choice of God, while predestination to sonship is the plan and goal to be achieved because of His eternal choice
 1. The relational emphasis of God's choice: not merely chosen to be legally acceptable to God
 2. Chosen to be sons and daughters, in a relationship of intimacy, honor, and love
2. God predestined us to adoption.
 - a. Predestination, when spoken of persons, always has a goal listed with it.
 - i. Predestination Not Persons:
 1. Acts 4:28 – God predestined Jesus' death, His plan was the goal
 2. 1 Cor 2:7 – revelation of the hidden wisdom of God in Christ
 - ii. Predestination of Persons:
 1. Eph 1:5 – adoption to sonship
 2. Romans 8:29 –of the elect to be conformed to the image of Christ
 3. Eph 1:11 – to the obtaining of an inheritance
 - b. Adoption is the spiritual benefit listed in verse 5

The Price of Adoption

3. God has adopted the ones whom He chose.
 - a. Roman sense of adoption
 - i. Paul was writing to those under Roman rule
 - ii. There was no Jewish "adoption" persay, merely a levirate "parenthood" which furthered the name of the birth parents and their lineage
 - b. Roman Adoption
 - i. Patria Potestas – Power of the Father
 1. The father in Roman law had absolute power
 2. He could even take the life of a family member
 - a. Usually newborns or those due to serious transgressions
 - b. Depending on the time period of Rome, a father even maintained authority over a married daughter

3. He had full legal ownership of everything in the family and could do with it what he willed.
- ii. Process of Roman adoption
 1. Son had to be sold as a slave three times to the adopted father, twice released and sold again, and upon the third sale the adoptive father became the Patria Potestas of the son
 2. Natural father loses all authority over the son
 3. The father had absolute authority until he died
 4. The son would become the Patria Potestas of the new family line, with full benefits and rights of a naturally born son.
- c. Believers used to be “children of wrath” (Eph 2:3) and “sons of disobedience” (Eph 2:2; 5:6; Col 3:6) held captive by their “father” the devil (John 8:44, 55; Col 1:13-14) .
 - i. God has moved us from the domain of darkness into the Kingdom of Jesus, His Son, to share in His inheritance (Col 1:11-14)
 - ii. Satan has no authority or power over the believer any longer
 - iii. He will try to slander your heavenly Father and tempt you to return to him, but he is powerless over you as a son of God and has no rights
 - iv. Note: Jesus is never spoken of in Scripture as having been adopted by the Father. Jesus is the Son of God *by nature* and has no need to change families or to be redeemed from the domain of darkness.
- d. The Father paid a price for your inclusion into His family, too. Though it wasn’t paid to your old father, Satan, it was paid to His own holiness and eternal justice.
 - i. “through Jesus Christ”
 - ii. By the means of the life, death, and resurrection of His natural Son, He has made you heirs.
 - iii. REMEMBER THE CROSS, where your life was redeemed, your adoption secured, and your sins were forgiven.
 - iv. There was a price paid to make you the children of God, heirs with an inheritance, and it’s all to the praise of His glorious grace!! Oh, the kindness of our Father, smiling over the adoption of His many children!

The Perks of Adoption

4. Adoption gives all the benefits of heirs to those who believe in Jesus Christ
 - a. He is the Patria Potestas and **He never dies**
 - b. We are **princes** and **princesses** in His Kingdom
 - c. He **will never leave us**
 - d. He has given us His spirit to carry out our transformation as His sons
 - i. He **empowers** us to live like sons (John 14:12ff; 16:7ff)
 - ii. He **teaches** us (John 14:26; 15:26)
 - iii. He **intercedes** for us (Rom 8:26-27)
 - iv. He **makes us holy** (Rom 8:1-15)
 - v. He **cries out with our spirit**, “*Daddy, Father!*”

ILLUST: Watchmen Nee tells about a new convert who came in deep distress to see him. “No matter how much I pray, no matter how hard I try, I simply cannot seem to be faithful to my Lord. I think I’m losing my salvation.” Nee said, “Do you see this dog here? He is my dog. He is house-trained; he never makes a mess; he is obedient; he is a pure delight to me. Out in the kitchen I have a son, a baby son. He makes a mess, he throws his food around, he fouls his clothes, he is a total mess. But who is going to inherit my kingdom? Not my dog; my son is my heir.”

- e. He has promised **suffering** on this earth when we are His
 - i. Romans 8:16-17
 - f. He will **discipline** His sons, too.
 - i. Heb 12:5-11
 - g. We now have a **family of grace**, where we all are here not based upon our own volition or will, but because of His wondrous grace to us.
 - i. No room for racism, chauvinism, economic superiority, social superiority, etc.
 - ii. We are free to be honest, open, and transparent with each other
 - iii. We are free to reprimand each other when we become boastful and self-centered that Jesus alone, by the Father's will, bought us our sonship
 - iv. We are deeply dependent upon the Holy Spirit, through prayer, to change us to think, feel, and behave like sons of God.
 - 1. Our work of service is "family work" not business and not independent of each other
 - 2. Not competitive or comparative, but missional and unified in purpose and success
 - v. As God's children, we are to imitate Him in grace and sacrificial other-centered love (see Eph 5:1-2; 1 Pet 1:14-16; Matt 5:16; Phil 2:15; 1 John 3:10)
5. God's predestination of His elect is according to His will
- a. His will is the driving force of our salvation, not our will
 - i. Romans 9:16
 - ii. Eph 2:8
 - b. His choice of our sonship is due to the "kind intention" of that will
 - i. "in love"
 - ii. Kind Intention (*ευδοκία*)
 - 1. Matt 3:17
 - 2. Matt 11:25-27
 - iii. This act of His will somehow gives God joy, always acting out His will and desire with benevolence toward His elect.
 - iv. It pleased God to give those whom He saved an inheritance and position as His sons.
 - v. He chose us and adopted us "to Himself"
 - 1. It is personal reconciliation that God willed
 - 2. We have been brought in to the Father through the Son
6. How is this to the praise of the glory of His grace?
- a. His grace is weighty, it is beautiful, it is wondrous!
 - b. Gratitude! Gratitude! Gratitude! Love!!!
 - c. You are a son, act like one!
 - d. You are a son, rest in your Father's love!

Conclusion: Ricky is my son. All that I have is his. It doesn't matter that he's racially different than me or that he is developmentally disabled. I chose my son, I love my son, and he's mine. The Father has predestined that you, too, are His. What He has is yours as His heir. And while I would pay the price of adoption for my son, thousands of dollars, Jesus paid for your adoption by His own blood! Remember the **plan** of your adoption, having taken place before eternity began in the choice of God's own will and being played out now by the kind intention of His will. Remember the **price** of your adoption, the blood of Jesus the one eternally near the Father in a distinctively different way than we are. And remember the **perks** of adoption, that you are in the family of God! There is no fear of what the world thinks of you, or can do to you, for you belong to the Father of Power. If He loves you enough that He sent His Son to die on your behalf, what do you have to fear?! We

are heirs of the Father, not through our good will or wisdom but by means of His grace, and He's not going to leave us, ever! To the praise of the glory of His grace!!

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT:

1. Look back the perks of adoption. Had you previously thought of these as being automatically given to you by grace, or did you consider them perks to be gained or lost by your performance? Can you describe what it would look like to be legally saved and regenerated and redeemed by God, but not adopted? How do you feel now that you know that God has chosen you for His family?
2. What was your relationship with your earthly father like? How has your experience determined your view of God as your father? How important do you think that it is to learn to know your heavenly Father? How important are your brothers and sisters in the community of Christ in your understanding of Him? How do Hebrews 12:10; Matthew 7:11; and Luke 11:13 help you in your view of God as your father?
3. How does God's adoption change your view of other Christians? How can we grow in a deeper appreciation of each other as "brothers and sisters?" How does the truth that we are adopted *by God's grace alone* help us in forgiving each other, being patient with one another, and loving each other amidst "family issues" in the Church?
4. Do you sense any discrimination against Christians of other races or cultures or social status? How does the doctrine of adoption by grace obliterate such distinctions in the Church (Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 4:1-6; 5:1-2)? Can you also see how adoption by God's grace leads us to the fact that neither men nor women should think of each other as more or less important in the Church?