

Reflections on Adoption

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. -Galatians 4:4-7

Some of you may know that over the past few years, my wife and I have been involved in the adoption process of the two younger siblings of our adopted son. We weren't long into the process when we realized that we were involved in something much bigger and more complicated than we had ever planned. Paperwork, classes, home visits, financial commitments, waiting, roadblocks! - And that was just the physical/emotional stuff we went through. Spiritually, we were being stretched beyond our imagination as we learned to trust God more deeply. Two months ago, my wife and I, along with all of our family and friends, celebrated and praised God that the adoptions were both finalized!

As I took time to reflect about our journey, I realized that the physical, emotional, and spiritual hurdles we went through is nothing compared to what our Heavenly Father had to do, through Jesus Christ, so that he might adopt us into the family of faith. God has also used our adoption of our three boys to show me some amazing parallels of Him adopting us into His family.

- 1) Before the boys even knew us, we were thinking about them and preparing for them to join our family. We loved them before they were officially ours.

In Psalm 139, the Bible says that God knew us even before we were knit in our mother's womb. He loved us before we knew anything about Him. Again, He was willing to go to great lengths to prepare a place for us and make us His own.

- 2) Part of the adoption process was giving the boys a new identity and life. Legally, our family name became their name and our home their home.

God does the same for us as written in Isaiah 43. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are redeemed with a new identity and inherit all the rights and privileges of being God's children.

- 3) Finally, we went to the courthouse and declared our intention and desire to make the boys a legal, permanent part of our family. The judge's finalization and signature of approval meant that it was official.

It's the same way with God. Jesus died by saying, "It is finished!" and signed our adoption papers with His blood. What an amazing gift it is to be in a secure relationship with the Father for eternity!

My brothers and sisters in Christ, it is our privilege and calling to let those around us know that Jesus has always loved them, came to this world to be our Redeemer, set us free from our old identity, and by faith, be forever adopted as His children!