

A Word of Thanksgiving!

Recently Eleutheros Books came into contact with Rev. Zach Malott, a Baptist missionary to the Apache Indians on a reservation in southeast New Mexico (Ruidoso). Pastor Malott has a great heart for the Apaches there and has led a number to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Eleutheros Books would like to take this opportunity to ask all the readers of this newsletter to pray for Pastor Malott and his ministry. God led him to seek a tool that would help him disciple new believers in the church. Under His guidance he chose "The Ramifications of Our Salvation" for this wonderful ministry, purchasing 50 copies for this cause. This author cried a number of tears of joy when the decision was made. To God be the glory!

The Adoption of Believers in Jesus Christ

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ ([Galatians 3:26](#)).

By Spirit baptism a believer is initiated into the family of God: *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews, or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been made to drink into one Spirit ([1 Corinthians 12:13](#)).*

In this discussion we will see that God wants His relationship with His own to be much closer than just a mere initiation. He *adopts* us into His family and grants to us many privileges with such a relationship. Consider where we were before we were saved!

In our natural state we have the Devil as our father: *Ye are of your father, the Devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do ([John 8:44](#)).*

Once we have been made a new creature in Christ and brought into God's family, we can rightly claim God as our Father. The Fatherhood of God, however, is only for those who have placed their faith in His Son Jesus Christ (reread [John 8:44](#) above, referring to unbelievers).

That having been said, what does the Bible say about our being adopted into the family of God?

1. God loves us as dear children. *But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name ([John 1:12](#)).* The word "sons" here is *teknon* in the Greek and means "young children."

2. This new relationship eliminates fear. *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 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 ([Romans 8:14-15](#)).*

The word "Abba" is Aramaic and is generally the first simple word that an infant in a middle eastern culture speaks when referring to his father. It is very clearly a term of trust and endearment.

3. Somehow adoption is connected to the new bodies we'll receive in heaven. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body ([Romans 8:22-23](#)).

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it ([Romans 8:24-25](#)).

4. Adoption was God's choice. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will ([Ephesians 1:5](#)).

5. This adoption brings very significant privileges to us even in this life. But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the Law, To redeem them that were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if so, then an heir of God through Christ ([Galatians 4:4-6](#)).

There is a very significant idea in these verses.

The words translated "sons" is from the Greek *hwios*. This particular noun indicates a fully adult son who has all the rights and privileges his father can bestow. If a father leaves something to a son in his final will and testament, he may very well include a statement that his son is entitled to what he has bestowed upon him, but that the son will have access to all these things *when he turns a certain age*. The father may stipulate an age of eighteen or twenty-one or some other age.

The point is, when we are adopted into God's family, we have both the special attachment of very young children (*teknon*) but also the special privileges of a fully adult son, including heirship (*hwios*)!

The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ ([Romans 8:16-17a](#)).

6. By faith we are delivered from the Law's curse when we are adopted by God. Wherefore the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is some, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus ([Galatians 3:24-26](#)).

Christians, rejoice! We have been made children of God!

*My father is rich
In houses and lands,*

A Child of the King
Harriet Buell

*He holdeth the wealth
Of the world in His hands!
Of rubies and diamonds,
Of silver and gold,
His coffers are full,
He has riches untold!*

*I once was an outcast
Stranger on earth,
A sinner by choice,
And an alien by birth.
But I've been adopted,
My name's written down,
An heir of salvation,
The kingdom and crown!*

*I'm a child of the King,
A child of the King;
With Jesus my Savior,
I'm a child of the King!*