**ADOPTION**

1. The best known example of adoption in scripture is the “adoption” of Moses by Pharaoh’s daughter. He exchanged a life where he was exposed to death for one of security. He exchanged poor parents for the wealth of the royal family. In seeking to explain the nature and consequences of salvation Paul speaks of Christians as having been “adopted” by the Father. In the Roman epistle particularly the apostle uses the concept to describe the implications of being a son of God.
2. When we talk about adoption we usually mean the process by which a child born to other parents is brought into a new family and acquires all the legal rights of natural children. Most commentators feel that this is what adoption means in the N.T. and describes how people who had no claim on God have been adopted and brought into His family. Some commentators argue however that the word has a slightly different connotation in that it refers to children who are already part of the family attaining majority and being formally recognised as sons. Whichever view is correct the point is to stress that believers have come into a position of privilege by virtue of having become sons of God. In the Galatian epistle the parallel idea of freedom is also clear. Under the law the Nation was enslaved, but by adoption there is freedom.
3. Although regeneration brings us into God’s family by new birth, it leaves us a “new born babes”. Adoption by contrast involves the “placing of sons” and signifies adult children of full age acquiring the benefits of full sonship.
4. Although we are described as sons of God in scripture our sonship differs from that of the Lord Jesus. He was always the Son whereas we had to be adopted to achieve the status of son.

**ADOPTION – KEY SCRIPTURES**

* **Is attested by the grant of the Spirit**

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 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: **Romans 8:14–16**

* **Is fulfilled when the Father takes His sons into His presence**

…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 8:23**

* **Is illustrated in Israel’s adoption by Jehovah**

4 Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service *of God*, and the promises; 5 Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. **Romans 9:4–5**

* **Occurs at salvation**

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. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. **Galatians 4:4–7**

* **Was purposed from eternity**

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **Ephesians 1:5**