

3. What are some of the things that might hinder the relationship we have with our Father in heaven? (Rom 8:12-23; Gal 4:4-10)

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4. How does the gospel overcome these hindrances?

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**TODAY'S LESSON:**

We badly need to rediscover the truth that Christians are sons of God! While Justification through the death of Jesus deals with the problem of sin and righteousness, Adoption through His blood deals with the need for permanent relationships.



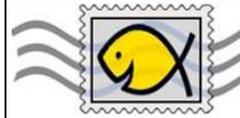
**WRITE OUT TODAY'S MEMORY VERSE (ROM 8:15)**

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**THIS, THE SCRIPTURES  
TEACH AND THIS WE  
BELIEVE ABOUT...**

**ADOPTION**

**FROM SINNER TO SAINT**

**FROM RUNAWAY SLAVES TO SONS**



“...you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)

# ADOPTION

Matt 6:1-34

## ADOPTION IS UNIQUE TO THE GOSPEL.

Justification and Adoption are really two sides of the same coin. Justification sets the relationship in legal terms and adoption sets the relationship in familial terms.

Matthew 6 can be broken into two sections, both are written in the context of our relationship to God as children. Verses 1-18 give us the nature of our relationship to God as Father in devotion to Him. Verses 19-34 help us to understand how we are to live in the world with God as our Father

## NOT ALL PEOPLE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD

Despite much liberal theology which overplays the idea that the whole of humanity constitutes the children of God (and therefore, by implication, are acceptable to God), the scriptures do not support such a statement.

- In the OT God is only the Father of Abraham's seed (Ex 4:22; Hos 11:1)
- In the NT God is only the Father of those who repent of their sin and turn to Christ as sin-bearer and Lord.
- These alone are Abraham's spiritual Children (Gal 3:26-29, Jhn 1:12, 14:6)
- This sonship is a gift of grace – an adoptive sonship (Gal 4:4-7; Rom 8:14-17; Eph 1:4; 1 John 1:1-3)

1. What are some of the principles governing our relationship to the Father in devotion? (Matt 6:1-18)

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Considering verse 1, think of all the good you have done. How much remains to come to you from God?

## REMEMBERING YOUR ADOPTION

### A son...

- Is overcome by the greatness of His Father's grace (1 Jhn 3:1-3; Lk 15:18; Jhn 17:23)
- Longs for His Father's house
- Is a 'chosen heir'
- Cannot help thinking of what awaits him! (Gal 4:7; Rom 8:14-19)
- Longs to imitate His Father in personal holiness
- Can see what Holiness is – family likeness
- Has a motive for seeking it – to avoid shaming his Father
- Knows it will come about through instruction and discipline

### SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT ADOPTION

- Adoption is the highest privilege which the Gospel offers
- Your sonship is to be a governing thought in every point of your Christian life:
  - ◆ When thinking about how to behave (Matt 6:1-8)
  - ◆ When praying (Matt 6:5-18, 9-13)
  - ◆ When thinking about what a disciple is (Mk 6:17-18)
  - ◆ When you worry about material things (Matt 6:25-34)

2. What are some of the principles governing our relationship with the world as children of God? (Matt 6:19-34)

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Therefore, as children of God, we set our hearts on His house, working to further His renown, not our own self expression, as we walk with Him in this world.