

## Adoption

(*υιοθεσία* = 'yiotheseeahs')

*Adoption, adoption as sons, the nature and condition of the true disciples in Christ, who by receiving the Spirit of God into their souls become sons of God.*

**Romans 8:14-15, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out 'Abba, Father'."**

A literal translation could read.... "For you did not receive a spirit of bondage to fear (as with slaves), but you received the Holy Spirit who produces in you a consciousness and realisation of sonship whereby we cry Abba, Father." The word **adoption** is found only five times in the Bible, all in the New Testament, and all in the epistles written by the apostle Paul. So in scripture, we notice that it is a word used exclusively by Paul. The original Greek word literally means '*the placing as a son*', and signifies the position and condition of a son given to one to whom the title does not naturally apply.

Therefore, a New Testament definition of '**adoption**' may be; '*that process or act by which God places and positions a repentant sinner into the divine family, in order to become a legal heir to all the rights and privileges normally only available to sons*'. Technically, as offspring of Adam, we are heirs to his fallen state - a state that exists and operates under the law of sin and death. But now, we are placed under the 'rule' of the kingdom of life in Christ Jesus. Sin and death no longer have a hold of us. The question we should all be asking ourselves is this, "Do I have a conscious realization of my sonship whereby I cry 'Abba Father' (Daddy)?"

**Galatians 4:4-5, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."** This passage says that we "receive" the adoption as sons. Therefore, adoption is presented in such a way that any believer can readily receive it, and it has nothing to do with a relationship or position brought about by birth. Rather, it reflects the dignity of a relationship or position that has been bestowed on us by the Holy Spirit (through faith in Jesus Christ). Once adopted, we are put into a position of honour. The same privileges and freedom given to Jesus Christ are now made available to the **adopted** sons. What's more, Ephesians 1:5 tells us that we have been foreordained unto "adoption as sons" through Jesus Christ. When God looked down the corridors of time, He had adoption in mind. The desire of His heart was to **adopt** all those whom He had lost when Adam fell.