

November series is titled: "**Our Father**"

1 John 3 says "see what love the father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are...!" Fatherhood is construed, looked down upon, mocked, and is in crisis. We often relate to God based on our experiences with our earthly fathers.

Today's message is titled- "**Adopted by God**".

Also today is very special as Calvary joins hundreds of churches around the globe to spread awareness of the Global Orphan Crisis for Orphan Sunday. While you may have immediate thoughts when you hear the word orphan or adoption however it is a very appropriate Kingdom term. We will see today that **Adoption is a God idea**.

My goal today is awareness. That we become more aware of the local and global orphan crisis...But even more important I want us to become deeply aware of the Father's love for us through adoption.

**Let's look at the three scriptures and themes:**

**1. Adoption is greater than the universe:**

**Ephesians 1:4,5** Paul address believers Ephesus, ..."God chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **IN LOVE** he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will."

1. Why is it greater? Before God said "Let there be" before he spoke creation, and life into existence he planned on adopting his children.
2. He did it because he is loving-he marked each one of us out. Knowing ahead of time how we would fail and turn our backs on him.
3. Our adoption is not based on our worth, qualifications, our being good- it was based on his love and his will. Church!!!!!! God looks across all eternity and choose us through Christ as His children!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## 2. Adoption is the heart of our father:

**Romans 8:14-17** "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons (and daughters), by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"....it continues to explain that if we are his children then we are heirs (more on this later in the series)

1. **Adoption is** about being part of God's family. It is relationship with the father. As an adopted child is brought into their new family we become part of God's family- the child takes on their name, treated as an equal, gets the benefits of being in the family, partakes in the inheritance (we become sons)
2. **The evidence we see** in our lives that we are God's children is the fact that we have the Holy Spirit inside us and we obey his leading.
3. **There are a few results** of being adopted: 1. No longer have a fear of orphanhood/ fear of not having a family. Fear of exclusion;(share Sonya example) 2. God leads and directs you in life.

## 3. Adoption is about destiny:

If redemption means bought back, adoption means brought back Into our intended relationship with our father. It means Jesus' death on the cross makes us right/just with God and takes it even deeper- to be right with God is great....but to be loved and brought into The Father's family is GREATER.

**Galatians 4:4-6** Paul says, "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son (Jesus), 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!'"

1. **Galatians echoes Romans 8- An adopted child is no longer a stranger** or guest, but a son and a daughter-enjoying all the benefits of family relationships and inheritance. More important is that it points to Christ as the center of our adoption.

2. Before he was crucified Jesus cried out Abba! Father!, remove this cup from me- yet NEVERTHELESS, he submitted to the will of the father..**WHY?** Paul tells us in V5 **“That we may receive adoption as sons”**

**Paul identifies adoption as the grand purpose of redemption.**

Redemption is rescue but adoption is receiving an inheritance. it is about our identity in Christ. We are not just a number, our parent is not NYS, I am assured parental love, and care.

**The cry of our hearts: "Abba! Father!"**

When the cry of our hearts is Abba Father we can't help but share the Father with others, we can't help but serve and care for the Orphan, and we cannot help but Go!

Author and Director of “Together for Adoption” Dan Cruver states, “The only people who are truly able to turn their eyes outward to care for the world’s most needy are those who knowingly live within and enjoy the loving gaze of their heavenly father.” The challenge is that If we truly understood our adoption we would pour ourselves out to serve others.

Not every Christian must adopt. Scripture does not command us to adopt, but it does expect God’s children to care for Orphans in their affliction J1:27

The result of our adoption is a sincere heart felt cry to your dad. It is a cry of love, reverence , awe, thankfulness, adoration, praise, deep yearning, intimacy and relationship, cry of deliverance, it is knowing that you were lost but now found- it is seeing when you were once blind to the things of God, it is a coming home to your family, it is a cry of hope that we have in Jesus as our savior and redeemer, it is the cry of those whom have been redeemed and grafted into God's family, it is a cry of God's children!

If any group of people should be inclined to care for the orphan and waiting child it should be those whose hearts the Spirit has placed the “Abba! Father!” Hear this truth: 1 John 3 "see what love the father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are...!" You have been wonderfully adopted by God!