

*GraceLife Church Presents . . .*

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# Soteriology

The Purpose,  
Accomplishment, Plan, and  
Application of Redemption

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Spiritual Blessings of Salvation

- ❖ Salvation is a multi-faceted work of God's grace.
- ❖ God the Father planned it in eternity before the foundation of the world
- ❖ Jesus Christ accomplished it as our high priest by taking upon himself human flesh.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit applies it to elect individuals in time.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Spiritual Blessings of Salvation

- ❖ The Holy Spirit's work in salvation is multi-faceted.
  - ❖ There are many aspects of the application of redemption.
  - ❖ We have been studying each them in the order that they occur in the life of a sinner.
  - ❖ Does anyone remember what this order is called?

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Spiritual Blessings of Salvation

### *The Ordo Salutis*

- ❖ How does God work in bringing one dead in trespasses and sins to full and final salvation?
  - ❖ That is the question the *ordo salutis* seeks to answer.
- ❖ This aspect of our salvation is primarily the work of the Holy Spirit but the Father and Son are involved as well.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Spiritual Blessings of Salvation

### *The Ordo Salutis*

“How do I find the supreme good and lasting happiness? What is it that reconciles me with God and incorporates me in his fellowship? What is the road that leads to the eternal blessed life? . . . It is the order of salvation, the order or way of salvation (*ordo* or *via salutis*) that seeks to answer that question. For by it one must understand the manner and order in which, or the road whereby, the sinner obtains the benefits of grace acquired by Christ.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 3:565.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Spiritual Blessings of Salvation

### *The Ordo Salutis*

- ❖ (Effectual) Calling
- ❖ Regeneration
- ❖ Conversion (Repentance and Faith)
- ❖ Justification
- ❖ Adoption

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Spiritual Blessings of Salvation

*The Ordo Salutis*

Effectual Calling

Regeneration

Conversion

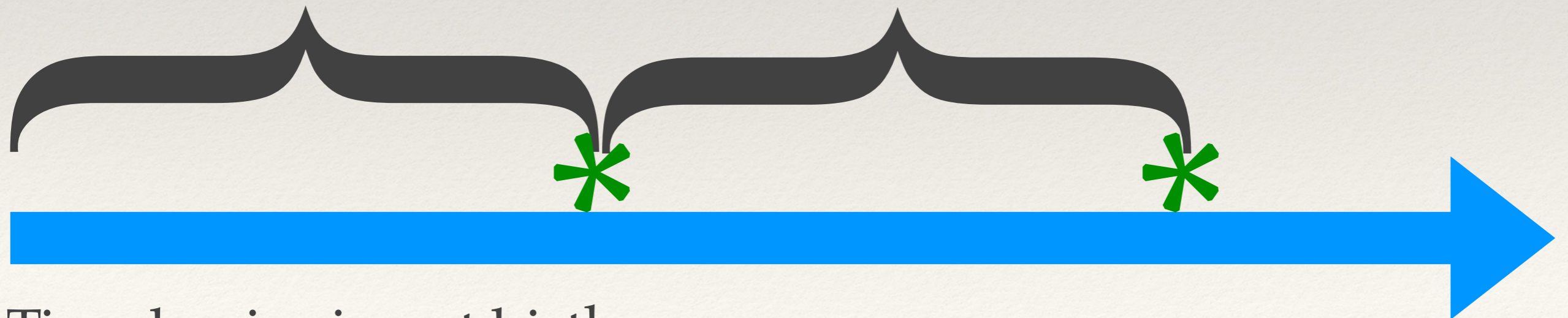
Justification

General Call

Adoption

Sanctification

Glorification



Time beginning at birth . . .

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Spiritual Blessings of Salvation

*The Ordo Salutis*

General Call  
Effectual Calling  
Regeneration  
Conversion  
Justification  
Adoption  
Sanctification  
Glorification



Order of the events of salvation . . .



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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Spiritual Blessings of Salvation

### *The Ordo Salutis*

- ❖ (Effectual) Calling
- ❖ Regeneration
- ❖ Conversion (Repentance and Faith)
- ❖ Justification
- ❖ Adoption

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Introduction to Adoption

- ❖ Until more recently adoption was largely ignored as an independent topic for theological discussion.
- ❖ There is virtually no disagreements on this doctrine
- ❖ This is the high point of the application of redemption.
- ❖ God's saving grace is beyond amazing in the blessing of adoption.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Introduction to Adoption

- ❖ The Definition of Adoption.
- ❖ The Distinction of Adoption from Regeneration and Justification.
- ❖ The Work of the Trinity in Adoption.
- ❖ The Transfer of Adoption.
- ❖ The Benefits of Adoption.
- ❖ The Amazing Reality of Adoption.
- ❖ The Connection of Adoption to Sanctification.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Introduction to Adoption

- ❖ The Definition of Adoption.
- ❖ The Distinction of Adoption from Regeneration and Justification.
- ❖ The Work of the Trinity in Adoption.
- ❖ The Transfer of Adoption.
- ❖ The Benefits of Adoption.
- ❖ The Amazing Reality of Adoption.
- ❖ The Connection of Adoption to Sanctification.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

- ❖ What is adoption?
- ❖ Where is it found in Scripture?
- ❖ What does it mean?
- ❖ First, let's look at some of the Scriptures regarding adoption.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

**Gal 3:26** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

**Gal 4:4** But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **5** so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” **7** Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

**Eph 1:5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,



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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

**Heb 2:11** For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, **12** saying,

“I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN,  
IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING  
YOUR PRAISE.”

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

**1 John 3:1** See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

**Rom 8:14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” **16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

“Adoption is an act of God whereby he makes us members of his family.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 323.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

“In adoption, God legally places regenerated and justified sinners into his family, so that they become sons and daughters of God and thus enjoy all the rights and privileges of one who is a member of God’s eternal family.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 625.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

“By adoption the redeemed become sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty; they are introduced into and given the privileges of God’s family.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 139.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

“We can describe it, therefore, as that judicial act of God by which He confers or bestows upon us the status or standing of children.”

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

“Adoption is that act of God, whereby men who were by nature children of wrath, even as others, and were of the lost and ruined family of Adam, are from no reason in themselves, but entirely of the pure grace of God, translated out of the evil and black family of Satan and brought actually and virtually into the family of God; so that they take His name, share the privileges of sons, and they are to all intents and purposes the actual offspring and children of God.”

Charles Spurgeon, “An Act of Pure Grace,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 9–10.



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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

*“Question 34. What is adoption?”*

*Answer: Adoption is an act of God’s free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.”*

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

“All those that are justified God vouchsafeth [gives or grants in a gracious manner], in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption; by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God; have his name put upon them; receive the Spirit of adoption; have access to the throne of grace with boldness; are enabled to cry, Abba, Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.”

Westminster Confession of Faith, XII.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

### *Adoption in the Ancient Near East*

“The adoption process consisted of several specific legal procedures. The first step completely terminated the adopted child’s social relationship and legal connection to his natural family. The second step made him a permanent member of his new family. Additionally, any previous financial obligations were eradicated, as if they had never existed.”

John MacArthur, *Slave*, 156–57.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

*Adoption in the Ancient Near East*

“In order for the transaction to be legally formalized, the presence of seven reputable witnesses were required. If necessary, their testimony would refute any potential challenge to the adoption after the father had died.”

John MacArthur, *Slave*, 157.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

### *Adoption in the Ancient Near East*

“Once the adoption was complete, the new son or daughter was then completely under both the care and control of the new father. The previous father no longer had any authority over his former child. In Roman households, the authority of the *paterfamilias* (‘father of the family’) was final and absolute. And that authority extended to those adopted into the household, starting at the moment of adoption.”

John MacArthur, *Slave*, 157.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

### *Adoption in the Ancient Near East*

- ❖ The A.N.E. practice of adoption was picked up by the writers of the New Testament as an image of what God does for us in Christ.
- ❖ This could be somewhat surprising at first because there is another picture of salvation that could be viewed as bringing us into the family of God.
- ❖ What other aspect of salvation could fit this sons, daughters, familial theme of the New Testament?

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

### *Adoption in the Ancient Near East*

- ❖ Regeneration. Being born-again.
- ❖ Are we born into the family of God (in our second birth)?
- ❖ I couldn't think of a Scripture that ties the new birth with entry into the family of God.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

### *Adoption in the Ancient Near East*

- ❖ The New Testament word-pictures for salvation work together to describe the fullness of salvation.
- ❖ Regeneration cannot capture all of what happens in salvation.
- ❖ Adoption better captures. . .
  - ❖ the transfer from one domain to another, from one family to another.
  - ❖ the (legal) change of status.
  - ❖ the benefits that flow from that change of status.



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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

### *Adoption in the Ancient Near East*

“These different ways in which Scripture speaks of their filial relation to God [born from above, married to Christ, adopted into the family of God] are intended to aid our feeble conceptions when we think upon the grand, ineffable blessing: one mode of expression supplying, in some degree, the ideas that are lacking in another.”

Abraham Booth, “Grace Reigns in Adoption,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 19.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

*Adoption in the Ancient Near East*

“We must not think of adoption as a kind of second-class relationship, as some may perceive it in our day. Rather, in ancient times the adopted child was often the most wanted and honored, chosen in many cases because he was unique and desirable.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 626, n. 155.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

### *Summary*

- ❖ Adoption is . . .
- ❖ an act of God.
- ❖ a legal, forensic, or judicial act.
- ❖ a change of status rather than a change of nature.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Definition of Adoption

### *Summary*

- ❖ Adoption . . .
- ❖ brings us into God's family making us his sons and daughters.
- ❖ grants us the privileges and rights of God's children.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

- ❖ Adoption is both similar to, and distinct from, regeneration and justification.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

*from Regeneration*

- ❖ Regeneration is the initial work of God in our salvation in which we are ‘made alive with Christ,’ ‘born-again,’ or become a ‘new creation.’
- ❖ Regeneration is a transformation of our nature.
- ❖ Adoption is a change of status not a change of nature.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

*from Regeneration*

“In the fall, the sinner not only lost the rights and the footing of a child, but he also lost the heart and the spirit of a child. That is, he lost at once his filial position and his filial nature.

He now stands in need of some scheme for regaining both his filial status and his filial spirit. Regeneration is that act of saving grace that, at least incipiently, reimparts to him his lost filial disposition, while adoption is that act of grace that restores his filial standing.”

Robert Webb, “The Importance of Adoption,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 5.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

*from Regeneration*

“Adoption is, like justification, a judicial act. In other words, it is the bestowal of a status, or standing, not the generating within us of a new nature or character. It concerns a relationship and not the attitude or disposition which enables us to recognize and cultivate that relationship.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 140.



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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

*from Justification*

- ❖ Justification is also distinct from adoption.
- ❖ Justification is a legal declaration of 'righteous.'
- ❖ In justification God begins to think of us and relate to us as though we possessed the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Adoption is a legal declaration of 'adopted into the family.'

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

*from Justification*

- ❖ Justification is also distinct from adoption.
- ❖ Justification is a legal declaration of 'righteous.'
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- ❖ Adoption is a legal declaration of 'adopted into the family.'

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

*from Justification*

“Adoption, on the other hand, is declarative; it does not change man’s character. Rather, it is a fundamentally legal act in which God gives to those who receive Christ ‘the right’—that is, the legal authority—‘to become children of God’ (John 1:12).”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 626.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

*from Justification*

**John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

- ❖ Adoption comes *after* regeneration and justification in the *ordo salutis*.
- ❖ Regeneration must occur for sinners to come to Christ in faith.
- ❖ Logically, one must be made right with God (in justification) before one can become a member of his family (in adoption).

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Distinction of Adoption

**Gal 3:24** Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. **25** But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. **26** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

- ❖ The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each involved in adoption.
- ❖ We typically think of the Holy Spirit being primarily involved in the application of redemption, but where ever one person of the Trinity is working the others are working as well.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Father*

- ❖ The Father is the primary actor in the work of adoption.
- ❖ This fits the picture of adoption, in which the father as head of the home would officially represent the family in the adoption of children.



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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Father*

**1 John 3:1** See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. . .

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Father*

**2 Cor 6:18** “And I will be a father to you,  
And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,”  
Says the Lord Almighty.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Father*

**Eph 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . **5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Son*

- ❖ The Son is connected to adoption in a couple of ways.
- ❖ Through faith in him we enter into the privilege of adoption as sons.
- ❖ Jesus Christ is *the* Son of God through eternal generation. Therefore, through adoption he is now our elder brother.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Son*

**Rom 8:17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Son*

**Heb 2:11** For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, **12** saying,

“I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN,  
IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING  
YOUR PRAISE.”

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Son*

**John 20:17** Jesus \*said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’”

**John 20:17** Jesus \*said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’”

- ❖ There is a difference between Jesus Christ as *the* Son of God and believers as sons of God.
- ❖ Jesus upholds that distinction as he speaks with Mary, ‘my Father and your Father,’ ‘my God and your God,’ is different than merely ‘our Father’ and ‘our God.’



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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Holy Spirit*

- ❖ The Holy Spirit is primarily responsible to create the new birth in our hearts that results in adoption.
- ❖ He is also involved in this amazing work in a few other ways.
- ❖ His indwelling presence gives us assurance that we are the children of God.
- ❖ He causes us to recognize our status as children of God.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Holy Spirit*

**Rom 8:14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” **16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Trinity in Adoption

### *The Holy Spirit*

**Gal 4:4** But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **5** so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

**Gal 4:4** But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **5** so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

- ❖ Note the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in these verses.
- ❖ Because we are sons we receive the Holy Spirit.
  - ❖ The Spirit works to cause us to recognize our filial relationship with the Father.
  - ❖ The Spirit seals us the the day of redemption guaranteeing our inheritance (Eph 1:13).

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

- ❖ The idea of a transfer from one sphere to another is where adoption really shines above regeneration, justification, or a any other aspect of salvation.
- ❖ The believer goes *from* one sphere *to* another.
- ❖ We go *from* one family *to* another.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

- ❖ Before salvation we were *in* Adam. We belonged to his family.
- ❖ We were also considered . . .
  - ❖ children of the devil.
  - ❖ sons of disobedience.
  - ❖ children of wrath.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

**John 8:41** “You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.” **42** Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. **43** “Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. **44** “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies..

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

**1 John 3:8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. **9** No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. **10** By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.



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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

**1 John 5:19** We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

**Eph 2:2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

**Eph 5:6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

- ❖ The devil was our father.
- ❖ We were children of the devil, sons of disobedience, children of wrath.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

“Adoption is that act of God, whereby men who were by nature children of wrath, even as others, and were of the lost and ruined family of Adam, are from no reason in themselves, but entirely of the pure grace of God, translated out of the evil and black family of Satan and brought actually and virtually into the family of God; so that they take His name, share the privileges of sons, and they are to all intents and purposes the actual offspring and children of God.”

Charles Spurgeon, “An Act of Pure Grace,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 9–10.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

“But inasmuch as I have no right whatever to be a child of God and can by no possibility claim so high a privilege in and of myself, adoption is the pure, gratuitous effect of divine grace and of that alone. . . Above all contradiction and controversy, that great and glorious act whereby God makes us of His family and unites us to Jesus Christ as our covenant head so that we may be His children is an act of pure grace.”

Charles Spurgeon, “An Act of Pure Grace,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 10.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

“With what gratitude should we remember that, though we were of the very lowest original, grace has put us into the number of the Savior’s family. . . . If a king should adopt any into his family, it would likely be the son of one of his lords—at any rate, some child of respectable parentage. He would scarce take the son of some common felon or some gypsy child to adopt him into his family; but God, in this case, has taken the very worst to be His children!”

Charles Spurgeon, “An Act of Pure Grace,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 10.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## The Transfer of Adoption

“The moving cause of adoption is the love, grace, free favor, and good will of God. There was nothing in the creature that could move Him to it—no agreeable disposition in them, no amiableness in their persons, nor anything engaging in their conduct and behaviour. But all [was] the reverse as before observed: wherefore, considering these things, the apostle breaks forth in this [moving] expression: “What manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1), in which he points out the source and spirit of this blessing of grace—the amazing love of God!”

John Gill, “The Causes of Adoption,” in *Free Grace Broadcaster* 246, 14.



