

## ***“Orphan to Family”***

### **Adoption The Line #3**

Adoption is an act of God whereby He makes us members of His family.  
(Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*)

“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all... “Father” is the Christian name for God.” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*)

**The moment we trust Jesus Christ to save us, we are adopted into God’s family and God becomes our Father:**

**John 1:12 (NLT)** But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

**God’s loving tenderness is revealed in adopting those who trust in Jesus Christ:**

**Psalms 68:5 (NIV)** A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

**God is delighted when someone crosses the line from unbelief to faith in Jesus Christ to become His child:**

**Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup> God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

## **As His adopted children, God gives us fullness of His blessings:**

**Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT)** <sup>4</sup> But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. <sup>5</sup> God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. <sup>6</sup> And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup> Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

**Romans 8:14-17 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup> For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup> And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering.

**If anybody understands God’s passion for His children, it’s someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us. God has adopted you. God sought you, found you, signed the papers and took you home. – Max Lucado**

## **Six blessings of being adopted as children into God’s family:**

### **1. We have intimacy with God as our Father.**

**Romans 8:15 (NLT)** <sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”

### **2. We have relationships with other followers of Christ as members of one family.**

**Ephesians 2:19 (VOICE)** <sup>19</sup> And so you are no longer called outcasts and wanderers but citizens with God's people, *members of God's holy family*, and residents of His household.

**3. We have the privilege to imitate and honor our Father in heaven.**

**Ephesians 5:1 (NLT)** Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.

**4. We have a new identity as God's children.**

**1 John 3:1 (NIV)** See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

**5. We have the Holy Spirit to lead us and to assure us.**

**Romans 8:14-16 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."  
<sup>16</sup> For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

**6. We have an inheritance waiting for us.**

**Romans 8:17 (VOICE)** <sup>17</sup> If we are God's children, that means we are His heirs along with the Anointed, set to inherit everything that is His. If we share His sufferings, *we know that* we will ultimately share in His glory.

*Thank you, God, for being our Father, Shepherd, Guardian, and Guide.  
We will never outgrow our need for Your love and care. We want to  
seek You with all our heart that we might know You intimately.  
(Our Daily Bread, June 17, 2012)*

## ***Orphan to Family (Adoption)***

- **Day One – Read Romans 8:14-17; 1 John 3:1; Ephesians 2:19, 5:1.** Look back over the list of blessings with our adoption by God. Had you previously thought of these blessings? How do you feel that God has adopted you into His family and has blessed you? Which blessing brings the most encouragement and which one is the greatest challenge to you?

**Pray** and ask God to give you a greater understanding and awareness of being God's child. Also pray and ask God for a greater appreciation for the blessings in your life. Pray and ask God to fill you with a spirit of thankfulness and joy.

- **Day Two – Read J.I. Packer's quote from "Knowing God" (first page); read John 1:12; Psalm 68:5; Galatians 4:4-7.** When you think about God being your Father, what thoughts come to your mind? When you consider that God not only forgives us but also makes us part of His family, what does that do to your view of God?

**Pray** and ask God to give you a closer walk with Him as your Father. Pray and ask Him to reveal any lies you may have believed about God and His desire to have a relationship with you.

- **Day Three – Read Ephesians 1:5 .** Do you sense the great joy God takes in you as His child? Do you have an assurance of how much God loves you and how much He enjoys being with you and how precious you are to Him?

**Pray** and ask God to give you the understanding and insight into His love for you as His child. Pray and ask Him to remove the hindrances in your life that may keep you from having a greater comprehension of His love for you.