

## Adoption

### Positional Adoption

- A. Once a person believes the Gospel they become saved. At that point they are, by an act of God, adopted into God's family.
1. Their adoption is a *positional* one.
  2. The adoptee is treated as a child.
    - a. An inheritance is provided that is eternal life in the presence of God.
      - 1.) Rom.8:14-17
      - 2.) Gal.4:5-7
    - b. The 'down payment' of this inheritance is the indwelling Holy Spirit.
      - 1.) Eph.1.14
- B. Only the saved can be called children of God.
1. Rom.8:16
    - a. "we" = brethren/believers from Rom.8:12
  2. Gal.4:6-7
  3. Those who are not saved are called the children of Satan<sup>1</sup>.
    - a. John 8:43-47
    - b. Acts 13:10
- C. The description of 'adoption' refers to our position.
1. When we trust in the finished work of Christ for our salvation we are removed from the family of Satan and positionally placed into God's family.
  2. It is only by the prompting of the (then external) Holy Spirit that we come to the point where we decide to place our faith in God's plan for salvation.
  3. Our decision to follow this prompting results in our salvation, adoption, and placement into God's family of 'sons.'
    - a. Rom.8:14-17

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<sup>1</sup> It may appear that those referred to 'as children of the devil' (Jn.8:44) are those who actively oppose Christianity (whether religious or not). Closer inspection will reveal that the *qualifications* for this position are that you do the 'lusts of your father' (Satan). Since all unbelievers are at all times at the mercy of their 'Old Sin Nature,' then the only thing that they can produce is sin (Isa.64:6) which is a manifestation of the 'lusts of' Satan, or, 'a perversion of the right ways of the Lord' (Acts 13:10). In a broad sense, it may be said that all unbelievers are children of the devil—which is a parallel to the father-child relationship among believers. It is true that in the narrow sense (and in the context of these passages) that those who *actively* oppose the work of God are the children of Satan—which is the parallel to the Father-Son relationship among *mature* Christians.

## **Bodily adoption**

- A. This is the second type of adoption that is spoken of in Scripture.
- B. Even though believers currently have everlasting life, it refers to their human soul and spirit. When believers die (or, are raptured –see *Dispensations*), we trade in this old body for a perfect, eternal ‘body’ that does not have an Old Sin Nature (see *Sin: Is it Inherited*).
  - 1. Phil.3:20,21
  - 2. 1Jn.3:2
- C. It may be a misnomer to refer to the new body as physical body since it is unlikely that the eternal body resembles anything we understand as physical.
- D. This “redemption of our body” is also called ‘adoption’ (Rom.8:23) and refers to the completion, physically, of an adoption that has thus far only been realized spiritually.