

**Children  
of the Living God**

# **Adoption**

# Jews & Gentiles

1. The distance between Jews and Gentiles
2. To understand that, we look at things like Brexit, immigration, or even our church. There's a sense that — because i've been here longer, I have greater ownership than you.
3. That same tension existed between Jews and others. What right could they claim to being part of God's Kingdom — so they started adding extra things to make them more "acceptable" to God.
4. That same mindset can creep into our relationship with God. Does God really accept me. Am I really adopted into his family?

# **Adopted into God's family**

5. Children of God — Adopted as sons

**14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"**

**- Romans 8:14-15**

sons of God

not the spirit of slavery into fear, the fear of not being good enough. the fear of needing to prove worth  
the fear of needing to prove acceptance

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# Abba! Father!

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Matthew 9, Our Father in heaven — Lord's prayer- Abba Father

2. The thing about Abba Father, is that there are many ways that we may have interpreted, or misinterpreted it over the years. Because we take the concept of Father and see it through our own cultural biases and experiences. And some of those experiences or preconceptions are godly — and others are misaligned.

3. What we learn from Abba Father, is that Jesus, who sets precedence for how we call God that, in his prayer in Matthew 9.

4. God, we do know, is Heavenly Father, who's sovereignty reigns over all things. But he is not just distant, or missing, like a Chinese parent who simply gives money to his child. From the beginning of the Bible, God is painting a picture of what he is like.

The character of God our father

5. He is merciful. and just. he makes promises and keeps them. he doesn't need us, and yet he protects us. He desires for us to grow, but at the same time understands the importance of discipline. He chooses, directs, teaches — and above all, we know that he loves.

6. John 3:16 — For God so loved the world that he gave his only son.

7. The understanding of God, and our ability to call him Abba Father, is the understanding that God, he himself is sacrificial. He sacrifices for the sake of his children.

4. Nevertheless, the idea of praying to God as "Our Father" conveys the authority, warmth, and intimacy of a loving father's care, while in heaven reminds believers of God's sovereign rule over all things. The theme of "heavenly Father" is found throughout the OT (Deut. 14:1; 32:6; Ps. 103:13; Jer. 3:4; 31:9; Hos. 11:1). Jesus' disciples are invited into the intimacy of God the Son with his Father.

# Who is God, the Father?

**merciful, just, active, protects us, chooses,  
directs, teaches, disciplines, desires good for us,  
reaches out to us, sacrificial**

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**Prodigal son.**  
**Let the children come to me.**

Luke 15: 20 “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. 22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

Matthew 19:13-15

13 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, 14 but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” 15 And he laid his hands on them and went away.

**The amazing gift of adoption,  
and being welcomed  
into his family**

# **More than Adoption**

**In the beginning the Word already existed.  
The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He existed in the beginning with God.  
God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.  
The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.**

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John 1

10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. **12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.**

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John 1:10-13

**Reborn**  
**Born again**  
**Born of his Spirit**

**We are his children,  
born of His Spirit.**

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.**

**Galatians 4:1-7**

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Galatians 4:1-7

**Live by His Spirit.**

1. The amazing part of being a child of God — is that it's not just a phrase, or a nice feeling. It's being actually born into God's family, by his Holy Spirit.

His Spirit gives us life, and by that life we LIVE

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:1-7

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22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:16-26

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**You are his child.  
So stop acting like you're not.**

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# **His Spirit Lives. Do you?**

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