

THE PRIVILEGE OF SONS

Part 5 Ephesians Chapter one

Ephesians 1:5 **SLIDE**

He [*the Father*] predestined us *to adoption* as sons by [through] Jesus Christ to Himself [*the Father*], according to the good pleasure of His [*the Father's*] will.

WHAT WERE WE PREDESTINED FOR?

*WE WERE PREDETERMINED **BY THE FATHER ... TO BE ADOPTED TO THE FATHER ... BEFORE TIME BEGAN.** (Not to do anything but to Be Someone.)*

THE FATHER KNEW YOU BACK THEN ...AND BACK THEN HE CHOSE YOU FOR HIS SON.

Romans 8:29 (Paraphrased)

*For those **the Father foreknew** He predestined to be one of His sons, in the image of His Son ...*

THE STRONG DESIGNATION OF SONS

*This verse always used to make me feel like I was a lesser child of God, because **I was only adopted.** I used to think, I could never really have the same significance as a natural-born son. I am just not as important – like an adopted child in a family who never quite gets the same favour and affection from the parent as the natural child **because they have a different nature.***

BUT THAT IS NOT TRUE ...

WE ARE BORN AGAIN, SPIRITUALLY OF THE SAME SPIRIT OF THE FATHER.

WE ARE 'PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE' NOW. (2 Peter 1:4)

John 1:12-13 NLT **SLIDE**

*To **all who believed** Him and accepted Him, He gave the right [privilege] to become children of God. They **are reborn**—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but **a birth that comes from God.***

Galatians 4:6

*... God has sent the **Spirit of His Son** into our hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father!'*

SO WE HAVE BOTH ADOPTION & SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

But, you say, 'Why introduce this new term, "Adoption", when we already understand we are born-again as children of God?'

PAUL IS ALLUDING TO SOMETHING EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN WE HAVE YET ENCOUNTERED

Martin Lloyd Jones said, '*Called to The Adoption of Sons is the mightiest and most glorious statement in the entire Scripture.*'

SLIDE BEFORE TIME BEGAN THIS ADOPTION LEGALLY ESTABLISHED YOU AS A SON OF THE FATHER

NB: Paul is the only apostle to mention this word and concept, probably because he was a Roman citizen and this adoption was a common rite amongst the Romans.

WITH ADOPTION – usually at an older age –

THE LEGAL PROCESS & PAPERS ARE PARAMOUNT.

In fact, feelings of affection are set aside as something more solid and significant happens ...

A BOY'S STATUS IS BEING LEGALLY CHANGED FOREVER.

THIS IS WHAT THE FATHER DID FOR US BEFORE TIME BEGAN.

BEFORE TIME BEGAN, THE FATHER HAD PREDETERMINED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM ON THE **LEGAL BASIS** OF ADOPTION.

SLIDE *Julius Caesar adopted Gaius Octavius Thurinus in his will, so that when Julius Caesar died ... Caesar Octavia was already adopted.*

You see, when we are born naturally and spiritually, the legal aspect is not even a consideration, as for instance ...

*When a healthy child is born to a father and mother, it is a wonderful emotional experience and **SLIDE** THE CELEBRATION OF NEW LIFE. You shed tears, kiss the baby, and from that moment on there arises a natural love and affection for the child.*

THIS IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THING.

It's after this wonderful experience of birth and almost as an after-thought, that **THE LEGAL PAPERS ARE COMPLETED** ...

THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE WITH THE BABY'S NAME ON IT IS GIVEN TO THE PARENTS. **They take it home, put it in a drawer and forget about it**, as their main focus is **SLIDE** on the baby, who is kissed and doted on, 10,000 photos are taken and the family comes over.

DURING THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE THE LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BIRTH IS NOT MENTIONED

So it is with us, when we are born again. We have no thought of the legal aspect of our new birth. We are caught up in the love and experience of new life ...

But this is the point ...

GOD ALREADY TOOK CARE OF THE LEGAL ASPECT OF OUR NEW BIRTH BEFORE TIME BEGAN.

IT WAS ALREADY AN ESTABLISHED LEGAL DECREE.

THE LEGAL PREDETERMINATION OF SONS

THIS LEGAL ADOPTION WAS PREDETERMINED BEFORE TIME

Ephesians 1:5 **SLIDE**

*He [the Father] **predestined us to adoption** as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself [the Father], according to the good pleasure of His will.*

- Predestination means to predetermine

AS FAR AS THE FATHER WAS CONCERNED ... WHEN YOU BECAME BORN AGAIN YOU WERE ONLY COMPLETING WHAT HE HAD PREDETERMINED.

THE LEGAL CAME FIRST & YOU JUST HAD TO AWAKEN & SIGN.

Galatians 4:5 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, **that we might receive our adoption as sons.***

NB In time we **receive** our adoption as sons which has already been written.

Romans calls being born again, receiving A Spirit of Adoption -

Romans 8:15 NASB

*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!"*

THE PREDETERMINATION OF LOVE

Ephesians 1:5 **SLIDE**

*⁴... **In love** ⁵He [the Father] **predestined us to adoption** as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself [the Father], according to the good pleasure of His will.*

1 John 3:1 KJV

*Behold **what manner of love** [is this] that we should be called the sons of God ...*

IT'S LOVE THAT CALLED US SONS

We were chosen and legally adopted **through love** ...

Our relationship with God has been established legally **in love** ...

BEFORE YOU WERE CHOSEN ...

BEFORE YOU WERE PREDESTINED ...

YOU WERE LOVED.

IT IS LOVE THAT PREDETERMINED AND PLANNED AND PROCURED AND APPLIED OUR ADOPTION ... ALL IN THE PAST ...

NB: So many times in the New Testament the Love of God is spoken of in the past tense, e.g. John 3:16 '... God so **loved** the world ...' – not God so **loves** ...

1 John 4:19

*We love (present tense) because He first **loved** (Aorist) us.*

(See also 1 John 4:10)

This is because the understanding of **what God Has predetermined for us in love** is more powerful than His love for us every day.

THE GREATEST PROOF OF GOD'S LOVE IS HOW HE HAS ALREADY LOVED US ... NOT HOW HE LOVES US TODAY.

MANY SEEK THE EXPERIENCE OF HIS LOVE TODAY ... BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T SEEN THE ORIGIN OF HIS LOVE BEFORE TIME BEGAN.

We have been made sons by strong love ... love that secured our legal standing and spiritual birth ... based on his legal declaration.

So, no matter how we might fail, or succeed, or what we may or may not experience ...

WE STILL ABIDE IN HIS ESTABLISHED LOVE.

WHEN WE KNOW HE HAS LOVED US, WE WON'T NEED TO KEEP SEEKING THE ASSURANCE THAT HE LOVES US ...

THE IMPLICATIONS OF BEING SONS

1. WE REALISE WE ARE PLANNED & WANTED

Ephesians 1:5 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

[He] predestined us for divine adoption as sons to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will.

THERE CAN BE NO UNWANTED CHILDREN IN THIS ADOPTION ...
YOU CANNOT SAY, 'MY FATHER DIDN'T WANT ME OR PLAN ME'

THE FATHER HAS DELIBERATELY DECIDED HE WANTS YOU TO BE HIS SON, WHICH HE PREDETERMINED BEFORE TIME BEGAN.

ADOPTION IS A DELIBERATE ACT ON A PARENT'S PART TO LEGALLY MAKE A CHILD A PART OF THEIR FAMILY.

2. WE REALISE WE HAVE A NEW SIGNIFICANCE OR STATUS

YOU NOW HAVE THE NAME OF YOUR FATHER ...

A NEW STATUS

Now you start to think of yourself as somebody important ... and the society of heaven starts to treat you as somebody important ...

WE ARE NOW A PERSON OF SIGNIFICANCE ...

A PERSON WITH AUTHORITY BEHIND THEM ...

A PERSON WHO BELONGS TO A NOBLE FAMILY ...

VALUABLE ... WORTHY ... NOTABLE ... INFLUENTIAL ... HIGH-RANKING ... PROMINENT ...

WE SHOULD NO LONGER FEEL UNWORTHY, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A TITLE AS SON & HEIR.

IT ACTUALLY DISHONOURS THE FATHER OF THE HOUSE WHEN WE START TO FEEL, SPEAK & ACT IN A MANNER OF UNWORTHINESS.

IT IS FALSE HUMILITY ... FEAR BASED ...

3. WE REALISE WE HAVE EVERY PROVISION

THE FATHER OF THE PRODIGAL SON SPOKE TO THE ELDER BROTHER AS FOLLOWS ...

Luke 15:31 NIV **SLIDE**

*'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and **everything I have is yours.**'*

WE NEED TO RECOGNISE WHAT WE HAVE THROUGH CHRIST ...

WE ARE LEGAL-SONS.

ALL THE BLESSING OF THE HOUSE IS OURS BY TITLE. IT IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT.

THE PRODIGAL RECEIVED A RING ON HIS FINGER.

THE RING ON THE FINGER WAS LIKE A BLANK CHEQUE ...

Pharaoh removed his signet ring and put it on Joseph's hand when installing him into office in Egypt. (Genesis 41:42)

In the book of Esther, the King took off his ring, the royal signet, by which the decrees of government were signed, and gave it to Mordecai. (Esther 8:2)

The ring transferred to them all power and authority necessary for the promotions they received, one as Governor, and the other as Prime Minister.

(An example of what a signet ring used to look like, is a king's coat of arms, used to make a document official by pressing the mark into sealing wax.)

WHEN WE PRAY LIKE A BEGGAR ... WHEN WE PLEAD LIKE A PAUPER ... WE DISHONOUR OUR SONSHIP.

YOU CAN NEVER DO THAT AGAIN WHEN YOU SEE YOU ARE A SON BY ROYAL DECREE THROUGH CHRIST.

NB: 'IN CHRIST' IS OUR HOLY POSITION ...

**'BY CHRIST' WE RECEIVE THE FATHER'S PROVISION AND PRIVILEGE TO US ...
OUR STATUS IN HIM ... SIGNIFICANCE ... PRESTIGE ... RANK ... POSITION ...
STATION ...**

SATAN'S OPPOSITION TO SONS

**THERE IS ONE BEING WHO IS 100% OPPOSED TO YOU KNOWING
YOU ARE A SON OF GOD**

This was God's words –

Matthew 3:17

... A voice came from heaven saying, 'This is *My Beloved Son* in whom I am well pleased.'

But -

Matthew 4:3 & 6

... [Satan] said, 'If you are the Son of God ...'

Jesus didn't try to prove His Sonship to Satan, and we don't need to either ... God has decreed our sonship legally and we just need to know and believe that ...

**IT IS ONE THING THAT SATAN WILL TRY AND KEEP YOU FROM
REALISING ... BECAUSE HE KNOWS THE IMPLICATIONS ARE
HUGE.**

THE PRESERVATION OF SONS

John 8:35 NLT / NIV **SLIDE**

A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but *a son belongs to it forever.*

**THIS ADOPTION SEALED US INTO A LEGAL STANDING WITH THE
FATHER. IT SETS US STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE **ON THE SOLID
GROUND OF DIVINE LAW** FOREVER ...**

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN A POOR SLAVE BEFORE ...

BUT IN ONE MOMENT ... BY A LEGAL DECREE ... YOU WERE INSTANTLY RAISED TO THE STATUS OF 'PRIVILEGED SON'.