

Living Word Church  
Sunday, October 15, 2023

Justified: A Study of Galatians  
Galatians 4:6-7

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Intro: The Biblical meaning of Adoption is son-placing.

Henry Thiessen stated, “In regeneration, we receive a new life; in justification, a new standing; and in adoption, a new position.”

### **Question #1: What does an adopted position in God mean?**

I. Our adopted position is established by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:12-17

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba,[e] Father.”

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

- The Holy Spirit bears witness to our sonship (Romans 8:16)
- When we come into God's family, our language changes (Gal 4:6, Romans 8:15).
- Through adoption, the believer will be led and can walk in the Spirit (Romans 8:14).

## Galatians 5

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

II. Our adopted position delivers us from fear.

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

- The spirit of bondage vs the Spirit of adoption (Romans 8:15)
  - Bondage of sin – Forgiveness
  - Bondage of legalism – Liberty
  - Bondage of fear – Peace
  - Bondage of confusion – Soundness
  - Bondage of captivity - Redeemed

**Question #2: What areas do you feel that you are still in bondage? Knowing that you are adopted into God's family, what would be the opposite of the bondage that you are in?**

III. Our adopted position includes us in the family of God.

Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

- We are joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17)
- As His children, we celebrate all who come into the family.
- We cannot allow the “Elder Brother” attitude to fill our hearts.

**Question #3: Read Luke 15:17-31. What were the two different reactions from the Father and the Elder brother when the lost son/brother returned? Why is it hard to celebrate when a lost person comes to Christ?**

Promise of the Day

Through Christ, I am saved, transformed, and adopted into the family of God. I am no longer in bondage but I am free in Christ. I am placed as a child of God and led by the Spirit of God. Thank you, Lord, for adopting me!