

Who Are You?

Adopted

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Ephesians 1:3–14 ESV

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

By now we should be envisioning these characteristics as so much more than just words but the identity of who we became because of what Jesus so loving did for us. This series is the affirmation of our new nature. The blessing of being chosen to be a people that are holy and blameless just as our creator. So the next identity of who we are is “adopted”. The greek word is *huiothesia*. It means to be received into a relationship as a child. Figuratively meaning adoption, sonship, to make one an heir. This type of terminology is not found in the Hebrew as Paul is alluding to a Roman custom. It’s meaning in Roman customs places a person to the same rights and same obligations as if they were a biological child of the adopter. But it does not stop there. It even involves that the one who is to be adopted has conformed to the ways and customs. Meaning that their image, purposes, and interest are conformed to that of the adopting parent. They abandon who they were before to take on the likeness and image of the new parent. So now we can begin to see the clarity of what Paul stated in verse 5. “In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. This adoption is for his purpose, not our own. It is not our love for him it is only by his love for us that we have been chosen for adoption. He displayed his love regardless of how we would treat this gift. So even in

the neglect of those who reject him it does not change his love and invitation of adoption.

As we have already covered the identity of being chosen by God, we need to have a revelation of adoption. Turn with me to Romans 8:14

Romans 8:14 NLT

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Within the greek there are 2 words that mean son. Teknon and Huious. One means a biological son and the other means an heir. Which one do you think are the children of God? Your argument could be that both are the children. But scripture declares that is the ones led by the Spirit of God. The word led means to conduct or carry. It is the ones that conduct themselves or carry themselves as children or son. Not the ones that hold a title but those who fulfill a position. Paul made that clear earlier in Romans 2: 25-29

Romans 2:25–29 NLT

25 The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. 26 And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God declare them to be his own people? 27 In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God's law but don't obey it. 28 For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. 29 No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

So who are the true children of God? Those who obey. So many times within scripture we see this same teaching. Jesus even said in John 8. He told the crowd that they were like their father because of how they acted or conducted themselves. In this case it was their actions that look liked that of Satan. Paul stated in Romans 6 that who we submit ourselves to is who our master is. All of this speaks about actions and conducts.

I remember when I was in grade school we were graded on our school work but equally important was our conduct grade. How we conducted ourselves told the story of who we were within. Our behavior was a reflection of discipline. Did we act one way with our parent but then contrary in their absence. And this same truth has been

so from the beginning. Our conduct reflects our heart and is a reflection of who our authority figure is.

As we continue or circle back to Romans 8:14-17

Romans 8:14–17 NLT

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 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." 16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. 17 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.

The children or sons that Paul referred to were the huious. The adopted ones that carried the heart of God. The ones that portrayed God's attributes. But just as Jesus was glorified he also suffered. His glory becomes our glory and his suffering becomes our suffering.

Galatians 3:26–29 NLT

26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

Paul uses the same greek word of huious for we are all Children by faith. And continues the emphasis of putting on new cloths. To put on new means we must take off the old. Our old nature. The nature of who we were before we were adopted. And continues that its not the title that makes us heirs but the obedience of our heart that displays the purpose and will of God. Romans 11:17-22

Romans 11:17–22 NLT

17 But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. 18 But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root. 19 "Well," you may say, "those branches were broken off to make room for me." 20 Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, and you are there

because you do believe. So don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. 21 For if God did not spare the original branches, he won't spare you either. 22 Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off.

Do you see the same thing I see here? The fact that branches can be removed. But how are they removed? Look at verse 20, Romans 11:20 "20 Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, But we misunderstand the word believe because we read it with the context of our modern terminology. So look at verse 22, Romans 11:22 "22 Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off." So to not believe means to not obey and to believe is to obey. This is the part of God's word that honestly feels uncomfortable. But when the new branch is grafted in, they are only a branch and they bear the fruit that root produces. This so aligns with the parable of the vine that Jesus preached about. If the branch does not bear fruit then it is severed and it no good for nothing but to be burned. So understand this: it is our disobedience that removes our status as children from God.

Revelation 21:5–8 NLT

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." 6 And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. 7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. 8 "But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshippers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

The only truth that is absolute are the words of God. All who are victorious will inherit. Who are our inheritors? Our children...but deeper than that, it is the ones that live for the sake of the parent. In this case the inheritors are the huious, the ingrafted ones that obey. But the cowards, unbelievers, corrupt, murders, the immoral, practicers of witchcraft, idol worshippers, and liars have a different fate. So who are these others that are not declared as the children (huious) of God?

Cowards: timid, fearful, intimidated

Unbelievers: one who disobeys

Corrupt: detestable and offensive towards God

Murderers: someone who physically takes a life or has hatred within their heart

Immoral: Sexual sin. Included in this list is those who practice the act of being a whoremonger, those who fornicate, those who practice homosexuality, and adulterers.

Practice Witchcraft: Sorcery or enchantments. This definition is only surface level as more depth is uncovered it should also be understood as one who is a manipulator. One who deceives

Idol Worshippers: One who worships idols. Idols are anything that is superior to the Lordship of God. Anything that comes before God can be an idol.

Liars: dishonesty or falsehood by words or actions. This word is often used to describe false teaches and false prophets. It is synonymous with the words hypocrite and illegitimate. Hypocrite in the greek is a word used to describe someone who acts in a play. They portray to be someone that they are not. But the word illegitimate really gets my attention here. Turn with me to Hebrews 12:5-10

Hebrews 12:5-10 NLT

5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. 6 For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." 7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 8 If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? 10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.

In every occurrence of the word children or child is the greek word huious. The proof of God's continuous love towards those that he has adopted is that he brings correction. So let me ask each of you a question. How much constant correction do you hear from God? Correction seises in our life when we despise it. This despising of correction moves us from being heirs to being illegitimate. When we despise we see

God's love as something different. We begin to see him as the taker instead of the giver. This is the shifting of our heart.

Let me ask you another question. Does adultery begin when the man and woman are in bed together or when they begin to flirt with one another? This flirting started a shift within their heart. It started with a thought and then became an action. Scripture tells us to cast down or off every imagination that exalt itself against the word of God. We are not in control of how the thought comes but we are in control of resisting it.

Illegitimate sons are the ones who no longer receive correction. This is the proof that they are not really children at all because they no longer bear the image and purpose of the father. The contrast of who is and who is not the huious of God is not a gray area. It's simply black and white. Either we are or we are not. But here is what's profound to me. Look at verse 10 Hebrews 12:10

Hebrews 12:10 NLT

10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.

And what was the fourth identity that we were called to display? Holiness! The true children (huious) of God share in God's holiness. He is Holy so we are to be holy!

Let me pray with you today!