

## **Chosen**

### **Galatians 4 vs 4-7**

#### **Introduction**

Welcome to our adoption focus weekend

Has anyone here been adopted? Can I see by a show of hands? Now I want to read some Scripture and ask again.

#### **Gal 4:4-7 (slide)**

**<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.**

So, can I ask again. Who here has been adopted? Anyone who has accepted Christ and believes has been adopted.

#### **1. Adoption is following the example of God the father (slide)**

#### **James 1:27 (slide)**

**Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

This is often the verse that is used as a motivation to get people involved with orphans

**BUT**

There is a much deeper motivation that is found in the heart of God and His own example

**John 14 vs 16-18 (slide)**

**<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

**“The deepest and strongest foundation of adoption is located not in the act of humans adopting humans, but in God adopting humans”  
John Piper (slide)**

This concept of adoption is intertwined with the very mission of God in sending Jesus into the world.

**Gal 4:4-5 (slide)**

**<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.**

When a person **BELIEVES in Jesus Christ**, God takes that person as being **in Jesus Christ**. Since Jesus is God’s son, the believer is counted as God’s son. His faith in Jesus causes Him to adopt Him as His son.

**John 1 vs 12 <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God**

The assurance comes with the Spirit of His son who comes and dwells in us and causes us to say “**ABBA FATHER**”...most beautiful words. And then we are made heirs together...our inheritance awaits us!!!

This is the ultimate adoption. Sheep without a Shepherd. We are all created by our Father but born into sin that has separated us from Him. We are all orphans needing adoption by the Father. This is where true acceptance and belonging is found.

We tend to get involved where we have had a similar experience or struggle and experienced grace and blessing (Michael J Fox – Parkinson's, Ernie Els - autism). This to me is a far greater motivation to want to engage in this space. As I come into realization of my own adoption I am drawn towards being part of this ministry of adoption.

When I engage in the act of adoption on earth I am engaging in the work of heaven. Our Father is adopting thousands of people around the world every day...man in his 70's here a few weeks ago. A Russian man here 10 days ago. Today He may adopt more right here. Can you see that adoption is part of the daily work of our Father?

## **2. To be adopted is to be CHOSEN (slide)**

Has anyone here been chosen?

US postal system...makes you feel special...you have been chosen...fake.

Chosen at airport not so great upgrade YES.

What does it feel like to be chosen?

Sports team

Leader

Job

We all want to be chosen "Pick me", "Pick me"!

So how does it feel to be chosen. As a kid, they are picking soccer teams. They are looking for volunteers in a show...what does it feel like when they pick you? They chose me. To be chosen...to belong to feel like you have value and worth.

My mom never chose me in fact I was a surprise, and I never chose them... This is a decision that is out of your hands and therefore very humbling. Where would I be had I been born into a different circumstance? They never had a choice...when I came out ..that was it. There were many times when she looked a return address. Here is one difference between natural birth and adoption. You can't choose your relatives either.

That's why I called this message CHOSEN  
Adoption - Is the one family relationship that involves choice.

**To take by choice into a relationship(slide)**

**To choose as one's own (slide)**– Yvette

John 15:16 (slide)

**You did not choose me**, but I chose **you** and appointed **you** so that **you** might go and bear fruit.

**When I am adopted I am chosen (slide)**

**3. Adoption is sacrifice (slide)**

**“while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” Romans 5:8(slide)**

While I was still a sinner, walking in rejection of Him- He died for me. He didn't choose me because I am a nice guy and deserve it. I deserved the opposite and yet He so loved me that He became a curse for me so I could be adopted into His family.

Adoption is sacrifice at almost every level...finance, rejection, anger, time, emotion, heartache, stress....many have and do struggle. Your heavenly Father knows exactly “He came to that which was His own and they received Him not” to this day we who have been adopted into His family rebel against Him and take His sacrifice for granted.

If you are someone who has adopted would you please stand that we may pray over you today - Sally

Many people in this community have stepped into this sacrifice of love over the years. It's part of our DNA and today is another chance to step.

**Ann Bischoff** is the CEO of Star house. A place that provides youth with a respite from experiencing homelessness and connecting them with a chance for a productive life.

Before joining the Star House team in April 2016, Ann founded mentor programs for youth and alumni of foster care through Starfish Alliance; she was senior director and Joyce Foundation fellow with a nonpartisan child policy think tank. She currently serves on the Columbus Metropolitan Club Program Committee, the Starfish Alliance Board of Directors and various other committees serving vulnerable youth. She earned a Masters from The Ohio State University. Ann is married with three daughters.

We have asked her to come and share her heart as well as the opportunities that are available to take a step. Welcome Ann

I. What is home? (Holidays, safe place, place to just be)

II. Stats

- \*All around our world,\* 1M young people without permanent home (slide)
- 4K in Franklin County and Delaware County combined (slide)
- Still more, 2,000 14-24 living homeless and alone in central Ohio (extra info, no slide)

III. Overseas, building says "Orphanage"; here foster care

III. No fault of their own

- orphaned
- incarcerated parents
- opiate epidemic
- abused neglected

IV. Holocaust/Foster Youth Scale of Trauma

V. \*Pastor Andy shared a verse earlier...\* James 1:27 (slide) Heart of Christ compels us to serve vulnerable people

VI. Grieved for children without families; His Church is capable of great things. No orphans waiting...

VII. There's a place for everyone- little time or a lot. List opportunities to serve displaced children by time commitment.

VIII. Introduce video

## **5.Challenge**

### **Communion**

As we take communion together, it is for those for us who have been adopted into His family. The Body of Christ was broken and His blood shed so that we could become part of God's family. As we eat and drink let's take a moment to reflect on His sacrifice and our deep gratitude for being adopted into His family. Take time to reflect on what steps he may be calling you to take.

Take a step and follow the Father in what He did for you. Get involved as a family. Visit the booths on your way out.

### **Slide with opportunities**