

KNOWING GOD

J. I. Packer

SONS & DAUGHTERS OF GOD - Ch. 19

Being a child of God is a gift of grace. The whole NT teaching is a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator. The NT religion is summed up as the knowledge of God as one's holy Father. To understand Christianity, you need to understand adoption.

ADOPTION

Father is the name for the covenant that binds God to his people.

Fatherhood implies: authority, affection, fellowship and honor.

Adoption is the highest privilege that the gospel offers.

Justification (forensic) makes us right, but adoption (family) makes us children of God.

Adoption is the basis of our christian conduct, by imitating, glorifying and pleasing Him.

Adoption is the basis of christian prayer, it is not impersonal but free & bold.

Adoption through propitiation, might be one of the best descriptions we have of our faith.

Adoption shows us the greatness of God's **love**, free kindness to the person adopted.

Adoption shows us the glory of the christian **hope**, it always looks forward with joy.

Adoption gives us the key to understanding the ministry of the **Holy Spirit**.

Adoption shows us the meaning and motives of "gospel **holiness**".

Adoption gives the clue we need to see our way through the problem of **assurance**.

ASSURANCE

- Different perspectives from all era and belief periods
- Family relationships must be abiding relationships, lasting forever
- God will go out of his way to make his children feel his love for them
- Romans 8, is our landmark passage for assurance.
- Paul testifies that our spirit bears witness with His Spirit, dual witness
- The Holy Spirit enables us to ascertain our sonship, conscious discovery
- "Inferential" a conclusion drawn from the fact that one knows the gospel, trust Christ, brings forth works meant for repentance, and manifests the instincts of a regenerate man.
- It is immediate assurance, the direct work of the Spirit which witness to our spirit
- This dual witness can be temporarily clouded with divine withdrawal & assault
- Our heavenly Father intends his children to know his love for them, and their security in His family.
- What sort of Father never tells of his love and proposes to them to be thrown out unless they behave?
- It is a proof of faith, but also those who quench or live in sin must experience discipline and miss the full fruition of the double witness in that moment.