Adoption
Romans 8:14-17

1. Adoption in the *Roman* world.
- Adoption was a common practice in Roman *law*.
- Much of Roman *society* depended on a system known as "patronage," in which one person became a "godfather" to less powerful people.
- This person, in turn, *owed* allegiance to his patron. Frequently, a patron would adopt a favorite unrelated client to inherent his estate.
- In Roman law, children received certain *legal* rights when seven years old, but they did not ordinarily come into full possession of all that was theirs until they were twenty-five.
- Up to that time the heir differed *nothing* from a servant, though by birth he was 'lord of all"; but was under "tutors and governors until the time appointed by the father." (Galatians 4:1-2)
- When Paul spoke of "adoption as sons," his readers would have immediately recalled that Caesar Augustus received much of his *power* through adoption by his patron, Julius Caesar, the founding father of the Roman Empire.
- That was the state of the Old Testament *Jew* (Galatians 4:3-7).

2. Adoption in *our* world.

- In ordinary usage the term "adoption" signifies the placing of an outsider in the family as a _legal_, not a _natural_ son or daughter, to be taken care of as your own child.

3. Adoption and the plan of the _Father_.

- In the New Testament, "adoption" is not a word of _relationship_, but of _position_.
- The believer's **relationship** to God as a child _results_ from the new birth (John 1:12-13).
- Adoption is the act of God by which one **already** a child is placed in the position of an _adult_ son or daughter (Galatians 3:24-25).
- Definition: Adoption is the act of God whereby children of God redeemed by Christ are made adult sons. Their full manifestation as such awaits the resurrection when they will receive the glorified bodies which are properly a apart of their exalted position as sons of God.

And if children, then heirs—joint heirs with Christ…
~ Romans 8:17