

Adopted By God

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2 Video: Are we **looking** the part **or living** the part? Can we really come to church authentically flawed **or** do we have to hide it?

II. Slide3 Intro: *Adopted by God*

A. The story is told of a **wealthy man** who lost his **wife** when **their only child was young**. A **housekeeper** was hired to take care of the boy, who **lived only into his teens**. Heartbroken from this second loss, the **father died** a short time later. No **will** could be found; and since there were no relatives, it looked as if the state would get his fortune. The man's personal belongings, including his mansion, were put up for sale. The old housekeeper had very little money, but there was one thing she wanted. *It was a picture that had hung on a wall in the house - a photo of the boy she had loved and nurtured.* When the items were sold, nobody else wanted the picture, so she bought it for just a few pennies. Taking it home, she began to clean it and polish the glass. As she took it apart, a paper fell out. It was **the man's will**, and in it he stated that *all his wealth should go to the one who loved his son enough to buy that picture.* Do you love the Father's Son?

B. Pray:

C. Slide4 Whenever John wrote he was always writing regarding **4 basic stages of Christian life**: [1] A **witness** is given to them. [2] They **believe**. [3] They receive **eternal life**. [4] They gain **assurance** in their status of eternal life.

1. Here John will once again, shore up their hearts toward **assurance**.

D. John says if you're *Born of God* then you're: *Born to Love; Born to Win; Born to Assurance; Born to talk to your Father; & Born Secure.*

III. Slide5a **BORN TO LOVE (1-3)**

A. If you're *Born of God*, then you're *Born to Love*.

B. **Slide5b** If you're *born of God* (5 x's this ch.), **then** you've been *adopted* by God the Father, placed *into* His family.

1. The Father gave you life & the Son gave His life ... *for you*.
2. So as **members of God's family** we no longer follow or align ourselves w/the world, **but instead** we look up to & follow our *older brother*, **Jesus**.
[Mrk.3:33-35 *Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you. And he answered them, Who are my mother and my brothers? And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother*]

C. **Slide5c** (1b) When you love **the Father**, you'll love His children as well ... they are your *spiritual siblings*.

D. If you're *Born to Love*, **then** you're *Born to Win*.

IV. **Slide6 BORN TO WIN (4,5)** *If you're born of God, then you're Born to Win*

A. Your **1st birth** made you a **sinner** & a **loser**; **but** your **2nd birth** makes you a **conqueror/a victor/champion/winner**.

1. **The world** wants to **entice you** (2:15-17); **The devil** wants to **seduce you** (Gen.3:6); **But Christ** will give you the **victory** you need if you trust Him.

B. **The new birth** provides the *power continually* to **win victory** over the world & its evil powers.

C. John has already warned us about *the subtle attraction* of the world (2:15-17); **now** he reveals *how the world may be conquered*.

D. (4) **Who overcomes?** & **by what means?** Born again believers, by their **faith**.

1. Our **faith** enables us to **overcome the world**. It is our **weapon of war**. **And** **it's force** consists in the fact that its content, *is the true nature of Jesus*.

E. If you're *Born to Win*, **then** you're *Born to Assurance*.

V. **Slide7a BORN TO ASSURANCE (6-13)**

- A. (7,8) Some Bible translations, such as the *KJV*, insert an additional clause between v.7 & 8: *For there are three who bear witness in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three who bear witness in earth, the spirit and the water and the blood; and these three are one.*
1. This Trinitarian formula, called the *Johannine Comma*, is evident elsewhere in the NT, but it is stated explicitly *in this addition*.
 2. It is included in only 4 Greek manuscripts dating between the 14th and 18th centuries; it also is noted in the margin of 5 additional manuscripts, added in each case much later. This means that it does not appear until the **2nd millennium** in any Greek manuscripts.
 3. [not needed, i.e. *Trinity* can be proved in many other places]
- B. Spirit, water, blood? According to John, **the Spirit of God**, along with the **water** and the **blood** (likely referring to Christ's baptism and death) bear witness to Christ's *incarnation*, which led to His *sacrifice* for sinful humanity.
- C. (7-11) A faith that can effect such great results, must be well attested/substantiated.
1. Slide7b The 5-fold witness: spirit, water, blood (8); testimony of God (9); testimony that God gave us eternal life (11).
 - a) Christianity is the only **worldview** that's open to this kind of assault & can take it on the chin. Truth is bulletproof ... we have nothing to worry about.
 - b) In 1966, China, Mao Zedong said, *Christianity is permanently buried & will never rise again. It has been expunged from our culture.*
 - (1) According to **The Economist**, 9/15/20, The Chinese government reckons that about 200m of China's 1.4bn people are **religious**. Although most practice traditional Chinese religions such as Taoism, and longer-standing foreign imports such as Buddhism, **Protestant Christianity** is probably *the fastest-growing faith*, with at least **38m** adherents today (about 3% of the population).¹

¹ <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2020/09/15/protestant-christianity-is-booming-in-china>

(2) **So** 10 years after (1976) Mao Zedong was the one that was buried, and he will 1 day rise again, to stand before God for trying to withhold Christianity from a billion people.

D.(13) **You know that you can have eternal life.** (1 of my fav verses)

1. That you may **know** ... not always **feel**.
2. **A man** once came to **D. L. Moody** and said he was worried because he didn't **feel** saved. Moody asked, "Was Noah safe in the ark?" "Certainly he was," the man replied. "Well, what made him safe, his feeling or **the ark**?"

E. **Slide7c** John said earlier in his gospel *My sheep **hear** my voice, and I **know** them, and they **follow** me. 28 I give them **eternal life** (not temporal), and they will **never perish** (never never), and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.* (no wolf, no thief, no bandit, no hireling, no demon, *not even the devil*, can pluck the sheep out of This *Shepherds hand*)

1. **Alexander Maclaren** gave as a rendering of this, *And I give unto them eternal life and they shall not at all, by any means, in any case, in any place, at any time, for any purpose, whether they be male or female, perpetually or eternally ever perish!*²
2. **Slide7d** Col.3:3 **For you have died, & your life is hidden w/Christ in God**
3. **The Father has a stake in your preservation. Why?** Because the sheep were **a gift** to Christ from the Father. **Would the Father take back a gift from the Son?**

F. If you're **Born to Assurance**, then you're **Born to Pray**.

VI. **Slide8a BORN TO PRAY (14-17)**

A. You are born to **talk to your Father** in prayer & receive from Him what you need.

1. It has well been said that prayer is not a way of overcoming God's **reluctance** but laying hold of His **willingness**.

² Alexander Maclaren; his notes in Jn.10.

B. **Slide8b** (16) Sometimes a Christian may sin so seriously that God judges that sin with swift physical death: *a sin that leads to death*.

a) Ananias & Sapphira *could be* cases in point (Acts 5:1-11).

b) Some believers at Corinth died because of the way they had acted at the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:30).

c) 1 Corin. 5 suggests that a certain offender would have died had he not repented and confessed his sin (2 Cor. 2:6-8).

2. **But** most of the sins which one sees a Christian brother commit are not of such a nature.

a) For these, a believer ought to pray, knowing that any sin - *if continued in long enough* - is a threat to a fellow Christian's (phys) life.

C. If you're *Born to Pray*, then you're *Born Secure*.

VII.Slide9a **BORN SECURE (18-21)**

A. Born protected/secure - so the evil one cannot harm you.

B. Wow 6 great certainties - know (13,15,18,19,20a&b)

C. **Slide9b** You do not keep yourself saved, for the Father does that. (Jude 24 *Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away*). **But** ... you keep yourself from the clutches of *the wicked one* & from idolatry.

1. Like, **the pocket-sized God of over-familiarity**, whom you can predict his every move, even condition his responses. **Or**, the unapproachable scary fly-off-the-handle God.

D. Abide in Christ & experience His love & care.

E. If I can add one that John missed here, yet I think its inferred, we're *Born to be Wild*.

VIII.Slide10 **BORN TO BE WILD**

A. Wild means *undomesticated*. So many Christians have been so domesticated.

1. John desired **raw & untamed faith** waiting to be *unleashed*.

2. I think later that's what John meant in his Revelation, about leaving their 1st love. They left their **primal faith!** A life **fueled by His presence.**

- a) **The way of Jesus is far too savage for too many folks: sacrifice, blood, guts, a cross, a call to die daily.**
- b) **2 invisible kingdoms duke-ing it out** - for the very hearts & lives of every human walking on the face of this planet.
- c) **Jesus is being lost in a religion bearing His name.**

B. Keywords: Adopted, witness, believe, faith, eternal life, assurance, love, born, assurance, pray, secure, wild, undomesticated.