

WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF ADOPTION?

by Michael A. Milton

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. Most of us know someone who was adopted or who has adopted. How might each adoption experience be different from being adopted by God? How might it be similar?
2. Many theology textbooks ignore the doctrine of adoption, so why is it worth your time to consider it? (6)
3. What are some of the benefits experienced by someone who has been adopted?
4. How should you refer to a person who has been adopted? Are they a “real” child of the adoptive parents? (7-8)
5. Throughout the Bible, God is referred to as *Father*. Can you think of four different ways this is expressed? (13-15)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
6. The OT clearly teaches Rahab was adopted into the family of God. How? (See Joshua 2.) (15-16)
7. What do you remember about the story of Ruth? How was she adopted into the family of God? (16-17)

8. Read Acts 16:11-24. Explain how the doctrine of adoption is evident in the lives of Lydia and the Philippian jailor. (21-22)

9. What do you learn about the blessedness of adoption from each of the following verses? (23-25)
 - a. Romans 8:15 –
 - b. Romans 8:23 –
 - c. Galatians 4:4-6 –
 - d. Ephesians 1:4-5 –

10. The initiative for spiritual adoption lies totally with whom? (27-28)

11. How does spiritual adoption make us part of a greater family? (29-30)

12. What roll does the Holy Spirit play in adoption? (30-31)

13. If God is the Father of all creation, are all people in the world adopted by God? (31-33)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

For the church:

1. The next time someone in your church adopts a child of any age, hold a party (shower) for them just like you do when they are expecting.
2. When someone comes to Christ and becomes part of your church family, do something special as a church, like throwing a party to make sure they feel welcome in their new family.

For Further Study

Pastor Milton gives several resources for you to study. Consider using one of them for an extended study on this great topic.

Find more helpful resources at www.pcabookstore.com.