

TRANSFORMATION



Fingerprints of God *Small Group & Individual Study Guide* *Week 4*

The Father: His hand on your shoulder.....His Progeny

Week 4 His Ring of Sonship

Introductory Reading--*A Place to Begin: Something to Ponder Together*

By the Roman law of adoption, which required a due legal form, the adopted child was entitled to the father's name, possessions, and family sacred rights, as his heir at law. The father also was entitled to his son's property, and was his absolute owner. Gratuitous love was the ground of the selection generally. Often a slave was adopted as a son. Even when not so, the son adopted was bought from the natural father. A son and heir often adopted brothers, admitting them to share his own privileges; this explains beautifully John 8:36, compare Heb 2:11; or else the usage alluded to is that of the son, on coming into the inheritance, setting free the slaves born in the house. The Jews, though not having exactly the same customs, were familiar with the Roman usage's. (II) National: as God adopted Israel (Rom 9:4; Deut 7:6; Ex 4:22-23; Hos 11:1); compare Jer 3:19, "How shall I put thee among the children ... thou shalt call Me, my Father." The wonder expressed is, how shall one so long estranged from God as Israel has been be restored to the privileges of adoption? The answer is, by God's pouring out on them hereafter the Spirit of adoption crying to God, "Father" (Isa 63:16; 64:8; Hos 3:4-5; Zech 12:10)...

An act of God's sovereign grace, originating in God's eternal counsel of love (Eph 1:4-5; Jer 31:3); actually imparted by God's uniting His people by faith to Christ (John 1:12-13; Rom 8:14-16; Gal 3:26; 4:4-5). The slave once forbidden to say "father" to the master, being adopted, can use that endearing appellation as a free man. God is their Father, because He is Christ's Father (John 20:17)...

The "adoption" is used for its full manifestation in the resurrection of the believer with a body like Christ's glorious body (Rom 8:23). Christ was Son even in His humiliation; but He was only "declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom 1:4), "the first begotten from the dead" (Rev 1:5). Hence, Paul refers, "Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee" (Ps 2:7) to the day of His resurrection. Not that He then first became Son, but His Sonship was then openly vindicated by the Father's raising Him from the dead (Acts 13:33). So our "adoption" is still waited for, in the sense of its open manifestation (Rom 8:11,19; 1 John 3:2). It is now a reality, but as yet a hidden reality. Our regeneration is now true (Titus 3:5), but its full glories await Christ's coming to raise His saints. The first resurrection shall be the saints' manifested regeneration (Matt 19:28).

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What is most difficult to grasp in the above commentary? Why is that?

Roman adoption worked in both directions. The adopted child was entitled to "the father's name, possessions, and family sacred rights....," but the child became the father's "property," including anything the child owned when coming into the adoption. Discuss how this applies to the Christian life. (We gain the inheritance God has for us, but we also must surrender anything we previously claimed as our own.)

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Outline

2 Timothy 1:6-7

He gives us His ring of authority

We have His authority, His power; we have access to His resources

Luke 9:1

Ephesians 1:5

If wayward...waiting for his return, to watching longingly from the front porch

we return hoping to just stand in the corner serve

& no longer embarrass Him

If at home.....ring of sonship/shared resources

rod of discipline

Week 4 Questions to consider-

Reflect and review the sermon. What were the highlights that stand out to you? What were the key takeaways?

Based on the scripture passages:

Review **2 Timothy 1:6-7**. Discuss the importance of ..."I remind you..." What is lacking in us?

In **verse 7**, discuss the 3 action words—"...spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline." How has these been seen and experienced in your life? What are the reasons we do not cultivate these in our life and ministry?

In **Luke 9:1** Jesus gave both "power and authority." Discuss the difference between these two. How has this been evident in your life? Hint: A police officer can hold up his hand and stop a long line of cars and trucks. Is he "superman" with incredible **power**? No. His power comes because he has the **authority** given to him by the law.

In **Ephesians 1:5**, discuss what these phrases mean to you personally in your Christian walk:

- 1) "predestined for adoption"
- 2) "according to the purpose of his will"

Pray together for a deeper understanding of these truths of God's love toward you as each of you seeks to grow in Christ and live in the assurance of His love.

Week 4
Going Deeper
Tweener Time

For your personal devotion time; Read then write your reflection

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Day 1 Read John 1:1-18, then go back and reflect on v.12

Day 2 Read Romans 8:1-17, then go back and reflect on v.14

Day 3 Read Galatians 4:1-7, then go back and reflect on vs. 5-7

Day 4 Read Philippians 2:1-18, then go back and reflect on v.15

Day 5 Read Hebrews 12:1-13, then go back and reflect on vs. 10 & 14