

Core 5:
Because we are justified,
we are adopted into the family of God.

“Fundamentally, the gospel is the revelation of who God is, who we are, and how we can be reconciled to him. Yet in the American dream, where self reigns as king or queen, we have a dangerous tendency to misunderstand, minimize, and even manipulate the gospel in order to accommodate our assumptions and our desires. As a result, we desperately need to explore how much of our understanding of the gospel is American and how much is biblical. And in the process we need to examine whether we have misconstrued a proper response to the gospel and maybe even missed the primary reward of the gospel, which is God himself.”

David Platt, *Radical*

Justification

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” (Romans 8:28-30 NIV)

What does it mean that you are innocent or justified by God?

“yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, “ (Galatians 2:16a ESV)

“so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ... and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.” (Galatians 2:16b ESV)

Imputed: The righteousness or innocence of Christ is credited to the sinner who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. As a result, when God sees us He sees the righteousness of Christ.

Adoption

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.” (Galatians 4:4-5 NRSV)

Louw and Nida’s Lexicon: to formally and legally declare that someone who is not one’s own child is henceforth to be treated and cared for as one’s own child, including complete rights of inheritance.

Adoption in the Roman Empire

1. That child would be a permanent part of the family; parents couldn’t disown a child they adopted.
2. An adopted child received a new identity. Any prior commitments, responsibilities and debts were erased.
3. New rights and responsibilities were taken on by the infant or child.
4. The concept of inheritance was part of life, not something that began at death. Therefore, being adopted made someone an heir to their father, joint-sharers in all his possessions and fully united to him.

“God, your God, will restore everything you lost; he’ll have compassion on you; he’ll come back and pick up the pieces from all the places where you were scattered.” (Deuteronomy 30:3 MSG)

“And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” (John 6:63, NLT)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” (Romans 8:14-17 NLT)

Philip and the Eunuch (Acts 8)

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.” (Isaiah 53:7-8)

“Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” (Acts 8:36)

“And don’t let the eunuchs say,
‘I’m a dried-up tree with no children and no future.’
For this is what the Lord says: I will bless those eunuchs
who keep my Sabbath days holy,
and who choose to do what pleases me
and commit their lives to me.
I will give them—within the walls of my house—
a memorial and a name far greater than sons and daughters could give.
For the name I give them is an everlasting one.
It will never disappear! (Isaiah 56:3-5 NLT)