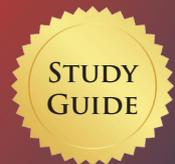


Adoption & Sonship

“In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace.”

- Ephesians 1:4-6

Exploring the Meaning
of Being a Child of God



ADOPTION & SONSHIP

DEDICATED TO THE MEMBERS
OF GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
AT THEIR 2018 RETREAT

WRITTEN & COMPILED BY
PASTOR STEPHEN HILDEBRANDT

THESE NOTES BELONG TO:

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Forward



IF you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian ... is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. 'Father' is the Christian name for God. Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption. ⁻¹

Outline

1

Members of the Family of God.

John 1:12-13

Pages

1-12

Since God created man, aren't all people children of God? In what ways are the terms "sons of God" or "children of God" used in the Bible? What are the past, present and future aspects of spiritual adoption? Since Christians are no longer slaves but sons, why did the disciples call themselves slaves of Christ?

2

Meaning of Christ's Sonship & Ours.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Pages

13-24

What does the Bible mean when Christ is called the only "begotten" Son? How is our adoption and sonship dependent on Christ's sonship? What does it mean to be coheirs with Christ, and what does it not mean? What is the nature of the Christian's inheritance? Do works, good or bad, affect the extent of the Christian's inheritance?

3

Motives & Criteria for Adoption.

Ephesians 1:4-6

Pages

25-34

What internal motive did God have for adopting His children? How do God's motives for adoption relate to man's chief end? What external motivation did God have, or what criteria did He use in choosing children for adoption? What should the Christian's attitude be about being chosen and adopted by God?

4

Marks of Adoption & Sonship.

1 John 5:13

Pages

35-44

The children of a family bear a resemblance to their parents and to one another. What is the family likeness in the family of God? Are there tangible ways that a person can know he or she is a member of the family of God? If so what are the internal and external evidences?



Members of the Family of God.

Purpose: To understand the Christian's true spiritual identity in Christ.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

John 1:12-13

Lesson 1 Outline

- A** Who are the Children of God?
 - B** Already, Right Now, or Not Yet?
 - C** Are Christians Sons or Slaves?
-

small groups

The title 'small groups' is displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The word 'small' is in a light green color, and 'groups' is in a darker green. To the right of the text, there are three speech bubbles of varying sizes, also in green, arranged in a cluster.

- Q1.** Since God created both men and angels, aren't all men and angels children of God?
- Q2.** When did or does the Christian's spiritual adoption by God the Father take place?
- Q3.** If Christians are sons of God, why did the disciples still call themselves slaves of Christ?

A Who are the Children of God?

1. Angels are called “sons of God”

- Job 1:6 - “Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.” (cf. Job 2:1)
- Job 38:4, 7 - “when [the Lord] laid the foundation of the earth ... the **sons of God** shouted for joy”

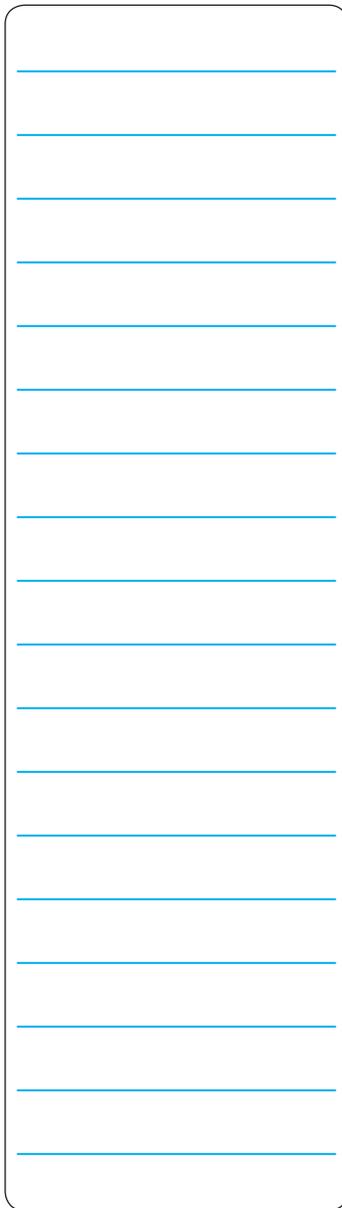
2. All humanity called “children of God”

- Acts 17:27-29 - “In Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are **His children.**’ Being then the **children of God**, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man”.

3. God is called the “Father of spirits”

- Hebrews 12:9 - “We had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not be subject to the **Father of spirits?**”
- Ecclesiastes 12:5-7 - For man goes to his eternal home ... then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and **the spirit will return to God who gave it.**”
- Zechariah 12:1 - “the Lord **forms the spirit of man** within him”

(See Appendix **A4**, p. 50)



God's Relationship(s) to Man

“There is a Creator-creature relationship between the Lord and all of humanity. This is far different, however, from the Father-son relationship that the Bible has in mind when it refers to the Lord as our Father” -²

R. C. Sproul (1939-2018)



Stop & Think Q1

Since God created men and angels,
aren't all men and angels children of God?

Universal Fatherhood of God?

“Abhor the doctrine of the universal Fatherhood of God, for it is a lie and a deep deception. It stabs at the heart, first, of the doctrine of adoption, which is taught in Scripture, for how can God adopt men if they are all His children already?” -³

Charles Spurgeon (1833-1892)

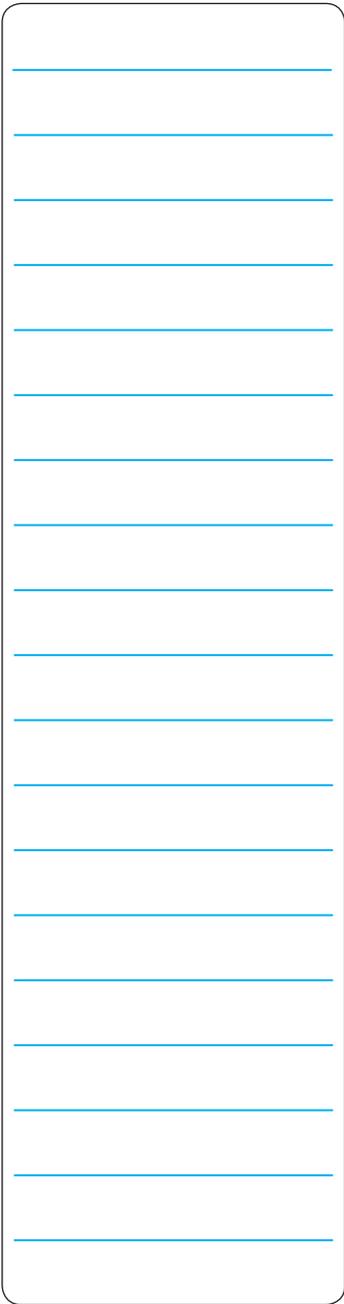


**4. All of humanity born
“children of the devil”**

- John 8:44 - “You are of **your father the devil** ... he is a liar and the father of lies.”
- Matthew 13:38 - “The field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the **sons of the evil one**.” (Parable of Wheat & Tares)
- 1 John 3:10 - “By this the children of God and the **children of the devil** are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God”
- Ephesians 2:1-3 - “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the **sons of disobedience**. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, even as the rest.”

**5. Some, not all, are true
“children of God”**

- John 1:12-13 - “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**”
- Galatians 3:26 - “For you are all **sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus.”



Adopted into the Family of God

“Nobody is born into this world a child of the family of God. We are born as children of wrath. The only way we enter into the family of God is by adoption, and that adoption occurs when we are united to God’s only begotten Son by faith.”⁻⁴

R. C. Sproul (1939-2018)



Family Feud

“There are two families of people on this earth, the children of God and the children of the devil, who are locked in a perpetual life and death conflict (John 8:44; 1 John 3:10).”⁻⁵

Iaian Duguid (1960-Present)



B Already, Right Now, or Not Yet?

~ The Past, Present & Future Aspects of Adoption ~

1. In Eternity Past.

- Ephesians 1:4-5 - “He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He **predestined us to adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself”

2. A Present Reality.

- Romans 8:14 - “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these **are** sons of God.”
- Romans 8:16 - “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we **are** children of God”
- Galatians 3:26 - “For you **are** all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- Galatians 4:6 - “Because you **are** sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”

3. Future Completion.

- 1 John 3:2 - “Beloved, now **we are children of God**, and it has **not** appeared as **yet** what we will be. We know that when He appears, we **will be** like Him”
- Romans 8:23 - “we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting** eagerly **for our adoption as sons**, the redemption of our body.”

The Father **Planned** it.

(Eph. 1:4-5)

The Son **Paid** for it.

(Gal. 4:4-7)

The Spirit is a **Pledge**.

(Eph. 1:13-14)

In Eternity Past

“God chose you and predestined you in love for adoption before the foundation of the world.” -6

John Piper (1946-Present)



Stop & Think Q2

When does the Christian’s adoption take place?

Waiting for Adoption

“We wait for an adoption referred to as the redemption of our body, and the implication is clearly that this is part of the completed act of divine adoption into God’s family.” -7

John Gerstner (1914-1996)



Our Relationship to Christ

“When Christ sets us free from slavery to the flesh, He calls us to the royal liberty of slavery to Him. That is why we call him Master. ... We are not autonomous or independent. Unless people understand their relationship to Christ in these terms, they remain unconverted.”⁻⁸

R. C. Sproul (1939-2018)



Stop & Think Q3

How is Paul's teaching that we are no longer slaves but sons not contradictory to his reference to Christians as slaves of Christ?

Lesson 1.

Summary of Key Principles

- Satan was my father by physical birth. (John 8:44, Eph. 2:1-3)
- God is my Father by spiritual birth. (John 1:12-13, 3:3)
- My adoption is a present reality, (Eph. 1:5, 13-14) that has not been fully realized. (Rom. 8:23)
- With regard to relationship, I am a child of God, (John 1:12-13) with regard to service, I am the Lord's bond-servant. (Rom. 6:22)

Private Devotions

1 John 1:12-13. The True Children of God.

In your own words, summarize what it means to you to be a true child of God.

1 Peter 1:14-16. Living Like a Child of God.

By God's grace, what changes could you make to more closely fit the description that you wrote above?

2

Meaning of Christ's Sonship & Ours.

Purpose: To understand the Christian's dependence upon & inheritance in Christ.

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him”

1 Corinthians 2:9

Lesson 2 Outline

- A** In What Sense is Jesus Christ Begotten?
 - B** Adopted Sons IN the Only Begotten Son.
 - C** Our Inheritance as Adopted Children of God.
-

small groups

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- Q1.** What does the Bible mean when Christ is called the only “begotten” Son? What does is NOT mean?
- Q2.** How is our adoption as sons & daughters of God dependent on Christ being the only begotten Son?
- Q3.** What is the Christian’s eternal inheritance and reward? Are there degrees of reward?

A In What Sense is Jesus Christ Begotten?

1. His Incarnation?

- John 1:14 - “The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father”

2. His Resurrection?

- Rom. 1:4 - He “was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead”
- Col. 1:18 - “He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead”

3. His Exaltation?

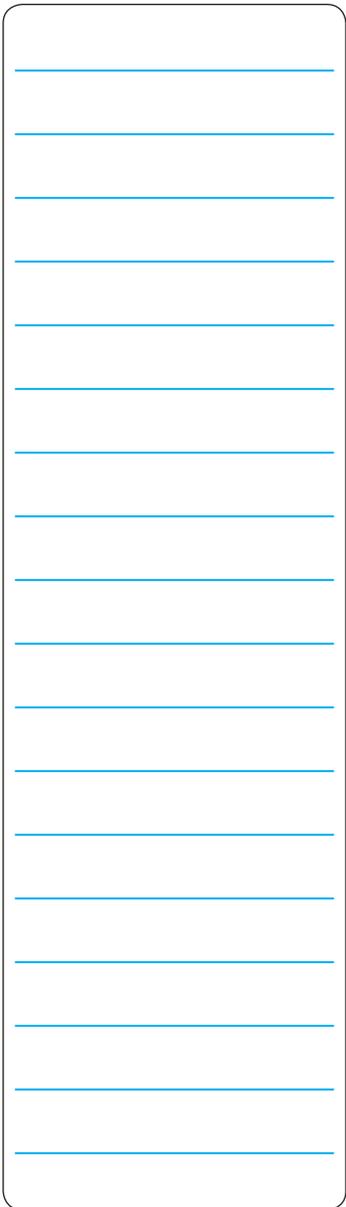
- Hebrews 1:3-5 - “He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ... ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You’?”

4. His Existence?

- Arianism - Belief that “begotten” means the Son of God was created by God, before which time the Son did not exist.
- Colossians 1:15 - “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

5. His Essence?

- John 1:18 - “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him” (See Appendix A3, p. 49)
- John 5:18 - “the Jews were seeking to kill Him, because He ... was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.”



Nicene Creed, AD 325

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible, and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God,] Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father.”⁻⁹

Greek: ὁμοούσιος, homoousios, “one in Being” or “of single essence”, with God the Father



Stop & Think Q1

Summarize what Jesus' begottenness does and does not mean.

The Meaning of Christ's Begottenness

“The Nicene Council declared that our Lord is the Eternal Son of God, i.e., that **He is from eternity the Son of God**. This of course involves the denial that He became the Son of God in time; and consequently, that the primary and essential reason for His being called Son is not His miraculous birth, nor His incarnation, nor His resurrection, nor His exaltation to the right hand of God. The Council decided that the word Son as applied to Christ, is not a term of office but of nature; that it expresses the relation which the Second Person in the Trinity from eternity bears to the First Person, and that the relation thus indicated is sameness of nature, so that **Sonship, in the case of Christ, includes equality with God.**”⁻¹⁰

Charles Hodge (1797-1878)

B Adopted Sons IN the Only Begotten Son.

Ephesians 1:3-14

The longest sentence in the Bible (257- Greek words)

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**,
- 4 just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.
- 5 In love He predestined us to adoption as sons **through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
- 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved**.
- 7 **In Him** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
- 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed **in Him**
- 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things **in Christ**, things in the heavens and things on the earth.
- 11 **In Him** also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.
- 13 **In Him**, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed **in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Only In Christ

“Our adoption as sons of God...comes through union with Christ and cannot be experienced apart from it. In Christ, and in Him alone, we receive the adoption that gives us an undeserved share in the promises that were made to Him” -¹¹

Iaian Duguid (1960-Present)



Stop & Think Q2

From Ephesians 1:3-14 (previous page) write down those things that we are & have **in Christ**.

- v. 3 _____ in Christ v. 6 _____ in the Beloved
- v. 4 _____ in Him v. 7 _____ in Him
- v. 5 _____ through Christ v. 7 _____ in Him
- v. 5 _____ through Christ v. 11 _____ in Him
- v. 5 _____ through Christ v. 13 _____ in Him

Loved in the Beloved

“The Father sees us as belonging to the Son, whom He loves. ... God’s love for us [is] an eternal love that is rooted and grounded in the Father’s love for the Son.” -¹²

R. C. Sproul (1939-2018)



Heir of All Things

“As the Son of God, Jesus is the heir of all that God possesses. The apostle Paul explains that all things not only were created by Christ but also for Him” -¹³

John MacArthur (1939-Present)



God is Our inheritance

“This is our great inheritance: the Lord Himself! Oh, how we need to cultivate a great taste for Him and His fellowship. If He is not precious to you, what a stranger you are to your inheritance! ... If we said that our great inheritance was mainly the things God had made, and not God Himself, we would be idolaters.” -¹⁴

John Piper (1946-Present)



The Riches of the Glory of God’s Inheritance

“If you and I are believers in Jesus, we are God’s inheritance and the Lord has what the apostle calls, ‘the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.’ ... He has spent riches of love upon them, for He loves them, poor as they are and sick and sorry as they often are. He loved them from before the foundation of the world—and you know how precious a thing becomes when you love it. It is a beloved keepsake and you would not part with it for a mint of gold. It may have little intrinsic value, but if you have long set your heart upon it, how dear it becomes to you. God has loved His people so long and so intensely with such an unbounded love that there is a wealth in them to His heart. Oh, that we knew something of “the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” as measured by the gauge of love.” -¹⁵

Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

5. Degrees of Reward.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 - “For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

6. A New Heaven & Earth.

- 2 Peter 3:13 - “But according to His promise we are looking for **new heavens and a new earth**, in which righteousness dwells.”
- Matt. 5:5 - “Blessed are the meek, for they shall **inherit the earth.**”

7. A New Glorified Body.

- 1 John 3:2 - “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, **we will be like Him.**”
- 1 Corinthians 15:52 - “In the twinkling of an eye ... the dead will be raised **incorruptible**, and we will be changed.”

8. Incomprehensible.

- Romans 8:18 - “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:17 - Momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison”

Our Inheritance

“We will not be deity, we will be glorified humanity, but as far as glorified humanity can share the glory of God and the inheritance of Christ, we will share it fully.” -16

John Macarthur (1939-Present)



Stop & Think Q3

How can we harmonize that fact that God Himself is the Christians’s reward (Psalm 16:5), with the fact that there are rewards to be won or lost, based on our works (1 Cor. 3:11-15)?

Lesson 2. Summary of Key Principles

- I am an adopted son/daughter in the only begotten Son. (Eph. 1:5)
- My inheritance as a child of God is foremost God Himself. God is my inheritance (Psa. 16:5), and I am His (Eph. 1:18).
- Nevertheless, present works affect future reward (1 Cor. 3:11-15): right now counts forever.

Private Devotions

Psalm 42:1. Thirst for God.

Read Piper’s quote on page 20 again. How would you describe your own “thirst” for fellowship with God?

1 Cor. 3:11-15. Right Now Counts Forever.

Many Christians live in the past, lamenting past mistakes or reliving past victories. Others live in the future, constantly waiting for just the right job or circumstances. What steps can you take to live more in the present, right now, for Christ?

3

Motives & Criteria for Adoption.

Purpose: To understand the “chief end” of the Christian’s adoption.

“He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace”

Ephesians 1:4-6

Lesson 3 Outline

- A** God’s Internal Motive for Adoption.
 - B** God’s External Criteria for Adoption.
 - C** Christian Attitude: Elect, Not Elite.
-

small groups

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- Q1.** What internal motive did God have for adopting His children?
- Q2.** What external criteria did God use in choosing the children He would adopt?
- Q3.** What should the Christian's attitude be about being chosen and adopted by God?

Why Did God Save Me? (Ephesians 2:4-7)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **so that in the ages to come** He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in **kindness** toward us in Christ Jesus.”



Stop & Think

From 2 Timothy 1:9, Ephesians 1:4-5 (Left) and Ephesians 2:4-7 (above), when did God choose to love and adopt you?

B God's External Criteria for Our Adoption. Q2

1. God's "Criteria".

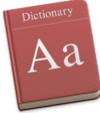
- 1 Cor. 1:26-31 - "For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. ... just as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"

God's Criteria for Adoption
People that are:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Unconditional Election.

- WCF, Ch III, Para V. - "Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, has chosen, in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith, or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereunto; and all to the praise of His glorious grace."

 **Definition:**

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Greek: ἀγενής
literally: "without family"

Jewels in the Savior’s Crown

“Electing love has selected some of the worst of men to be made the best. Pebbles of the brook grace turns into jewels for the Savior’s crown. Worthless dross He transforms into pure gold.” - 17

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)



Putting it All Together

- 1 Cor. 1:27-28 (Page 29) - God deliberately chose the...

- Eph. 1:4 (Page 27) - To make them ...

- Eph. 1:6 (Page 27) - So that they would ...

Why Did God Save ME?

“But if God foresaw no merit in us, then why did God elect us and not some others to salvation? .. the purpose of election and predestination is the praise of the glory of His grace.” - 18

Gordon Haddon Clark (1902-1985)



C Christian Attitude: Elect, Not Elite.

1. Amazing Grace!

- 1 John 3:1 - “Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, **that we** should be called children of God!”

2. Humble, Not Haughty.

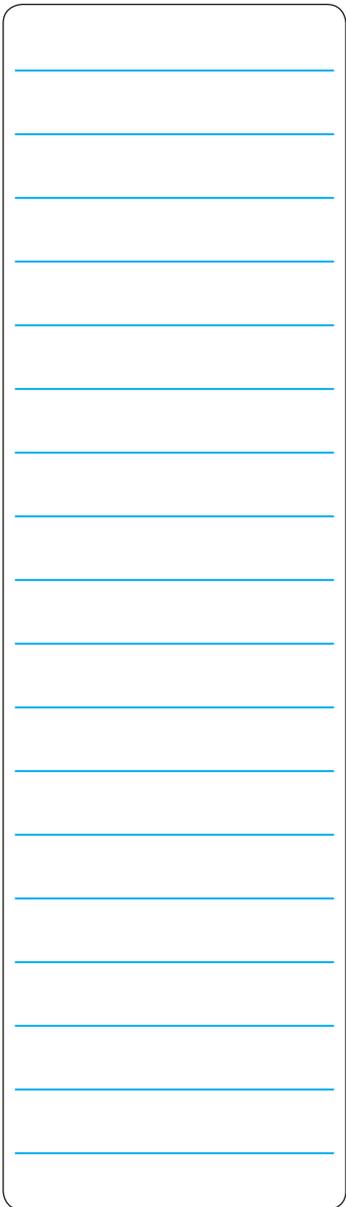
- Ephesians 4:1-2 - “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all **humility**”
- Colossians 3:12 - “So, as those who have been **chosen** of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of ... **humility**”

3. Nothing in Me to Boast.

- 1 Corinthians 4:7 - “For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, **why do you boast?**”
- Ephesians 2:8-9 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, **so that no one may boast.**”

4. Our Boast is in the Lord.

- Galatians 6:14 - “But may it never be that I would **boast**, except **in the cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- Psalms 34:2 - “My soul will make its **boast in the Lord**; The humble will hear it and rejoice.”



Grace Shuts Up Boasting

“Grace puts its hand on the boasting mouth, and shuts it once for all.”⁻¹⁹

Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)



Stop & Think Q3

What should the Christian’s attitude be about being chosen and adopted by God?

Lesson 3. Summary of Key Principles

God’s Internal Motives for Adopting Me:

- To make me holy and blameless. (Eph. 1:4)
- To show His love & the kind intention of His will. (Eph. 1:5)
- To lavish upon me with the riches of His grace forever. (Eph. 2:4-7)
- To excite a response: The praise of the glory of His grace. (Eph. 1:6)

God’s External Criteria for Adopting Me: None! (1 Cor. 1:26-31)

Private Devotions

Eph. 2:4-7. The Riches of God's Grace.

Read Ephesians 2:4-7 (Top, p. 28), and in your own words summarize God's future plans for you and your thoughts about that.

Eph. 1:6. Praising God's Grace.

By His sovereign grace God adopted you, so that you might praise the glory of His grace, now and forever. Write down some ways that you might be more intentional in doing that in your daily practice.

4

Marks of Adoption & Sonship.

Purpose: To understand the identifying marks of adoption & sonship.

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

1 John 5:13

Lesson 4 Outline

- A** The Starting Point.
 - B** The Family Likeness.
 - C** The “Chief” Mark.
-

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- Q1.** Are there tangible ways that a person can know for sure that he or she is a member of the family of God?
- Q2.** Within the context of Romans 8:14, what does it mean to be lead by the Spirit?
- Q3.** What would you say is the most distinguishing mark of a person that is a child of God?

Faith Legitimizes Us

“An unbeliever may call God his Creator - and his Judge - but not his Father. Faith legitimizes us—and makes us of the blood-royal of heaven. ‘You are the children of God by faith (Gal. 3:26).’” -²⁰

Thomas Watson (1620-1686)



Stop & Think

Ephesians 1:4-5 (Left), says that God chose us to be holy and blameless. Is holiness the chief end of election? Explain.

Regeneration & Adoption

“Adoption is the bestowal of a relationship, while regeneration is the transformation of our moral nature. Yet the link is evident; God wants His children, whom He loves, to bear His character, and takes action accordingly.” -²¹

J. I. Packer (1899-1981)



God Drives Us With Affliction

Sinclair Ferguson

“For the child of God, affliction is always chastisement – the action of the Father. It is one of the chief distinctions between Christians and unbelievers. The latter seek but do not find any ultimate meaning in their suffering; as a result, unbelievers must attempt to create meaning. But not so Christians. For Scripture teaches them that, in Christ, trials have a goal. God is treating His people as sons by training them. Were He indifferent to us in our sin and waywardness, questions could rightly be raised about our legitimacy. In this sense, all discipline is evidence of His love.”⁻²³

God Draws Us With Affection

Notes & excerpts from a sermon by John Piper

- In Rom. 8:13-16, “being led by the Spirit” (v. 14) refers back to “putting to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit” (v. 13). Being led by the Holy Spirit to mortify sin is an evidence of sonship (v. 14).
- To help us put to death the deeds of the body, the Holy Spirit does not stir up a slavish fear of punishment, even though external compliance can be obtained through fear. A Vietnamese man was asked if the people in Vietnam liked communism. He said, “No, but they have the guns.”
- The Spirit enables God’s people to put to death the deeds of the body: [1] by “shedding abroad” God’s love for His children into our hearts (Rom. 5:5), i.e. the profound belief that God loves ME; and [2] by creating a childlike response to the love of God that cries out, “Abba! Father!” The testimony of the Holy Spirit (v. 16) IS the cry, “Abba! Father!” (v. 15)
- Paul uses the word ‘cry’ and the Aramaic word ‘Abba’ to point to a deep, affectionate, personal experience of God’s fatherly love. The testimony of the Spirit is NOT just that we affirm doctrinally that God is Father. The devil knows that doctrine (James 2:19). Doctrinal affirmations, as important as they are, don’t make children of God. No, the testimony of the Spirit is that from our hearts arises, not a mere statement, but an irrepressible cry, “Abba! Father!”
- If you want to know that you are a child of God, don’t wait for a whisper from the Holy Spirit. The testimony of the Spirit is when we look at the cross we cry, “Jesus, you are my Lord!” (1 Cor. 12:3), and “God, you are my Father!”⁻²⁴

(See Appendices **A1** p. 47 & **A2** p. 48)

C The “Chief” Mark: Enjoying God, i.e. Fellowship with God.

- 1 John 1:3-6 - “What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have **fellowship with us**; and indeed our **fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ**. ... This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth**”

C1 Corollary: Love & Fellowship with God’s People.

- 1 John 4:20-21 - “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that **the one who loves God should love his brother also**.”
- 1 John 3:10 - “By this the **children of God** and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not **love his brother**.”

Love for the brethren

- John 13:35
- Romans 12:10
- 1 Thess. 4:9
- Hebrews 13:1
- 1 Peter 1:22
- 1 John 4:11

Family Dynamics

“We have the privilege of belonging to the family of God and being served by, and in turn loving and serving, its members.” - 25

John Owen (1616-1683)



Stop & Think

Discuss again the relationship between practical righteousness and fellowship with God

Lesson 4. Summary of Key Principles

- The first mark of a child of God is faith in Jesus Christ. (1 Jn. 5:1)
- A profound sense that God is my Father who loves me. (1 John 3:1)
- A Spirit-led war against sin in my life. (1 John 2:29, Rom. 8:13-16)
- Accepting trials as Fatherly discipline. (1 John 5:4, Heb. 12:5-11)
- Chief birthmark: Joyful fellowship with my Father. (1 John 1:3)
- Love for my Christian brothers & sisters. (1 John 4:20-21)

❧ SERIES SUMMARY ❧

L1. Members of the Family of God.

- Satan was my father by physical birth. (John 8:44, Eph. 2:1-3)
- God is my Father by spiritual birth. (John 1:12-13, 3:3)
- My adoption is a present reality, (Eph. 1:5, 13-14) that has not been fully realized. (Rom. 8:23)
- With regard to relationship, I am a child of God, (John 1:12-13) with regard to service, I am the Lord's bond-servant. (Rom. 6:22)

Have I fully embraced my true spiritual identity in Christ?

L2. Meaning of Christ's Sonship & Ours.

- I am an adopted son / daughter in the only begotten Son. (Eph. 1:5)
- My inheritance as a child of God is foremost God Himself. God is my inheritance (Psa. 16:5), and I am His (Eph. 1:18).
- Nevertheless, present works affect future reward (1 Cor. 3:11-15): right now counts forever.

Am I enjoying my inheritance now, which is God Himself?

L3. Motives & Criteria for Adoption.

God's Internal Motives for Adopting Me:

- To make me holy and blameless. (Eph. 1:4)
- To show His love & the kind intention of His will. (Eph. 1:5)
- To lavish upon me with the riches of His grace forever. (Eph. 2:4-7)
- To excite a response: The praise of the glory of His grace. (Eph. 1:6)

God's External Criteria for Adopting Me: None! (1 Cor. 1:26-31)

Is adoption producing in me praise to God for His grace?

L4. Marks of Adoption & Sonship.

- The first mark of a child of God is faith in Jesus Christ. (1 Jn. 5:1)
- A profound sense that God is my Father who loves me. (1 John 3:1)
- A Spirit-led war against sin in my life. (1 John 2:29, Rom. 8:13-16)
- Accepting trials as Fatherly discipline. (1 John 5:4, Heb. 12:5-11)
- Chief birthmark: Joyful fellowship with my Father. (1 John 1:3)
- Love for my Christian brothers & sisters. (1 John 4:20-21)

Does my life reflect the marks of a true child of God?

Private Devotions

1 John 5:13. My Marks of Adoption.

In the summary of Lesson 4 on the previous page (p. 43), which marks of adoption do you think are most evident in your life? Which of the marks do you feel like you need the most growth?

Romans 12:1-2. Impact on My Life.

From the *Adoption & Sonship* study that you have just completed, what principles have most impacted your life?



Appendices

Number	Subject	Appendix	Referenced
A1	“Father” as a Title of God.	PAGE 47	PAGE 40
A2	“Abba” as a Title of God.	48	40
A3	“The Only Begotten God”	49	15
A4	Origin of the Spirit/Soul	50	3
A5	“Heirs” With & In Christ	51	19
A6	We Shall Reign With Christ	52	19

A1 “Father” as a Title of God.

1. Old Testament Usage.

- God is called “Father” just 15x in the Old Testament. 9x God is called the Father of the nation of Israel (Deut. 32:6; Isa 63:16; 64:8; Jer. 3:4, 3:19, 31:9; Mal 1:6, 2:10), and 6x God is called the Father of certain individuals (1 Chron. 17:13, 22:10, 28:6; Psa. 68:5, 89:26). At other times the father imagery is present although the term “Father” is not used (e.g. Ex. 4:22-23; Deut. 1:31, 8:5, 14:1; Psa. 103:13; Jer. 3:22, 31:20; Hosea 11:1-4; Mal. 3:17).⁻²⁶

2. The First Rabbi to Call God “Father”.

- “A few years ago, a German scholar was doing research in New Testament literature and discovered that in the entire history of Judaism—in all existing books of the Old Testament and all existing books of extrabiblical Jewish writings dating from the beginning of Judaism until the tenth century A.D. in Italy—there is not a single reference of a Jewish person addressing God directly in the first person as Father. The first Jewish rabbi to call God ‘Father’ directly was Jesus of Nazareth. It was a radical departure from tradition, and in fact, in every recorded prayer we have from the lips of Jesus save one, he calls God ‘Father.’”⁻²⁷
- Jesus referred to God as “Father” 65x in the synoptic gospels, and over 100x in the Gospel of John. Jesus specifically called God “My Father” 46x (Matthew 14x, Luke 4x, John 25x, Revelation 3x), and for this reason the Jews sought to kill Him, because He “was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God” (John 5:18). Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Our Father, who art in heaven” (Mt. 6:9), as the way to pray to God.

3. Usage by the Apostle Paul.

- In the epistles of Paul, God is called “Father” over 40x, based not so much on God’s role in creation but rather on the redemption and reconciliation he has made available in Jesus Christ. It is through Christ that we have become God’s children (Rom. 8:12-16).

4. Usage Under Attack.

- It is charged by those who promote a gender-neutral Bible that calling God “Father” leads to a false view that God is male. While it is true that God is pure Spirit (John 4:24) and therefore without gender, avoiding the term “Father” as a designation for God contradicts the very Scriptures that pure Spirit of God inspired (2 Tim. 3:16). Jesus addressed God as “Father” and taught His disciples to do the same.

A2 “Abba” as a Title of God.

1. The Language Jesus Spoke.

- It is virtually certain that Jesus spoke three languages: [1] Aramaic, the primary language spoken by the Jews in first century Palestine; [2] Hebrew, which was spoken primarily by the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees, which Jesus probably only spoke in the synagogue and while discussing the Torah; and [3] Greek, at various times in His itinerant ministry among hellenistic Jews.

2. Use of the Title “Abba”.

- There is no evidence in pre-Christian Jewish literature that Jews addressed God as “Abba.” The exact term Jesus used is still found three times in the New Testament (Mark 14:36, Rom. 8:15-16, Gal. 4:6), but elsewhere the Aramaic term *Abba* is translated by the Greek *pater*.

3. “Abba” Does Not Mean “Daddy”.

- *Abba* is derived from the Aramic *ab*, originally a child’s word meaning “daddy”; however, “Even in the pre-Christian era the word underwent a considerable extension of meaning. It came to replace the older form of address common to biblical Heb. and Aram., *abi*, ‘my father’ ... The effect of this widening of meaning was that the word *abba* as a form of address to one’s father was no longer restricted to children, but also used by adult sons and daughters. The childish character of the word (‘daddy’) thus receded, and *abba* acquired the warm, familiar ring which we may feel in such an expression as ‘dear father’”. Thus, “*Abba*, having practically become a proper name, Greek-speaking Jews added the Gk. word *pater*, father” (Vines), i.e. “*Abba*, Father”.⁻²⁸

“In the Gemara (a Rabbinical commentary on the Mishna, the traditional teaching of the Jews) it is stated that slaves were forbidden to address the head of the family by this title”.⁻²⁹ Yet the Christian may address God as “*Abba*,” denoting our adoption as sons: “For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of *adoption as sons* by which we cry out, ‘*Abba*! Father!’” (Rom. 8:15), “And because you are *sons*, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘*Abba*! Father!’” (Gal. 4:6).

A3 "The Only Begotten God".

"No one has seen God at any time; the *only begotten God* who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him." - John 1:18

"Only Begotten God"

Greek: μονογενής Θεός, monogenus Theos

A. Greek Manuscripts.

- Papyrus 66 [Papyrus Bodmer II] AD 200 (Martin), AD 100-150 (Hunger)
- Papyrus 75 (AD 175-225)
- Codex **C** - Sinaiticus (c. 330–360)
- Codex B - Vaticanus (c. 325–350)
- Codex C* - Ephraemi Rescriptus (5th C.)
- Apostolic Constitutions (AD 375 -380)
- Codex L - Regius (AD 701-800)

B. Non-Greek Manuscripts.

- Bohairic Coptic [Codex Bodmer III] (AD 300)
- Diatessaron ("Out of Four") of Titan the Syrian (c. 160-175)
- Syriac Peshitta (AD 150)
- Adysh manuscript (AD 897) - Gregorian-Georgian/Iberian version
- Opiza manuscript (AD 913)
- Tbet' manuscript (AD 995)

"Only Begotten Son"

Greek: μονογενής υἱός, monogenus Theos

A. Greek Manuscripts.

- Codex A - Alexandrinus (5th C.)
- Codex **Θ** - Tiflis (9th C.)
- Codex **Ψ** - Athos (8/9 C.)
- 63 - 9th C. Greek uncial
- f^{1,13} - "families" of 18 Greek minuscule mss
- **ℵ** = majority Byzantine text

B. Versions.

- Old Latin
- Curetonian Syriac (5th C.)
- Heracleian Syriac (18th C. edition) -³⁰

A4 Origin of the Spirit / Soul.

1. Creationism.

- God creates a spirit/soul for each body that is generated organically.
- [Hebrews 12:9](#) - God is called “the **Father of spirits**” (cf. Num. 16:22, 27:16)
- [Genesis 2:7](#) - “Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” (Eccl. 12:5-7)
- [Isaiah 42:5](#) - “Thus says God the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its offspring, who **gives** breath to the people on it and **spirit** to those who walk in it”
- [Zechariah 12:1](#) - “the Lord ... **forms the spirit of man** within him”

2. Traducianism.

- The belief that at conception both the child’s body and soul or spirit are passed on to the child from the parents. In other words, the child inherits both the material and immaterial aspects of his being from his biological parents.
- Embraced by the Lutherans. Tertullian was the author of propagation (traducis) in *Treatise on the Soul*.
- This implies that only the soul of Adam was created directly by God.
- But if the parents of the child are regenerate, then the soul of the child must also be regenerate, which obscures the doctrine of original sin as articulated in Romans 5.

3. Pre-Existence of the Soul.

- Mormon belief that god procreated billions of spirit “babies” in heaven with his spirit wives. These spirits are then attached to physical bodies at the time of conception.

A5 “Heirs” With & In Christ.

- Romans 8:16-17 - “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, **heirs** also, **heirs** of God and fellow **heirs** with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”
- Galatians 3:29 - “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, **heirs** according to promise.”
- Galatians 4:7 - “Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an **heirs** through God.”
- Ephesians 3:6 - “Gentiles are fellow **heirs** and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel”
- Titus 3:5-7 - “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made **heirs** according to the hope of eternal life.”
- Hebrews 6:17 - “In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the **heirs** of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath”
- Hebrews 11:7 - “By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an **heir** of the righteousness which is according to faith.”
- Hebrews 11:9 - “By faith [Abraham] lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow **heirs** of the same promise”
- James 2:5 - “Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and **heirs** of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”
- 1 Peter 3:7 - “You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow **heir** of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”

A6 We Shall Reign With Christ.

*“If we endure, we will also **reign with Him**”*

2 Timothy 2:12

A Crown.

- 2 Timothy 4:7-8 - “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
- James 1:12 - “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. “
- Revelation 2:10 - “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. ... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the **crown of life**.”
- 1 Peter 5:4 - “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading **crown of glory**.”

A Throne.

- Ephesians 2:4-6 - “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”
- Revelation 4:4 - “Around the throne were twenty-four **thrones**; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden **crowns** on their heads.”
- Revelation 5:9-10 - “And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will **reign** upon the earth.’”

A Kingdom.

- Daniel 7:18 - “But the saints of the Highest One will receive the **kingdom** and possess the **kingdom** forever, for all ages to come.”
- Matthew 25:34 - “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the **kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”
- Hebrews 12:28 - “Therefore, since we receive a **kingdom** which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe”

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Discipleship Materials



Cross Training, Course 1.

Doctrine & Theology. Designed for individual or small group discipleship. Seven chapters: 1. The Bible; 2. Who is God?; 3. Who Are We?; 4. The Fall; 5. Salvation; 6. Christ's Two Natures; 7. The Holy Spirit. Leader's guide available. © 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, 133 pages.



Cross Training, Course 2.

Christian Living. Designed for individual or small group discipleship. Five chapters include: 1. The Law of God; 2. Living Accountably; 3. Repentance; 4. The Christian Life; 5. Growing in Christ. Leader's guide available. © Dec. 1999; Jan. 2003; Aug. 2003, 78 pages.



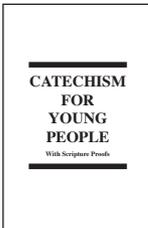
Cross Training, Course 3.

Spiritual Warfare. Designed for individual or small group discipleship. Five chapters on the Christian's: 1. Allies; 2. Adversaries; 3. Armor; 4. A, B, C's of Affliction; 5. Anxiety & Addiction, etc. Leader's guide available. © 2011, 148 pages.



Christian Foundations.

Eight lessons: 1. Who is God? The A, B, C's of God's Character; 2. Who Am I? Understanding the Nature of Man; 3. The Bible: Five Things You Should Know; 4. The God-Man Called Jesus: His Person and Work; 5. What Must I do to be Saved? Understanding the Gospel; 6. God's Sovereignty: His Predetermined Purpose and Plan; 7. The Christian Life: The Signs of True Christianity; 8. The Church: The Household of God. Leaders Guide Available. © June 2007, 25 pages.



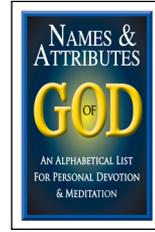
Catechism for Young People.

147 questions, with Scripture proofs, in nine categories: 1. God; 2. Creation; 3. The Fall; 4. Salvation; 5. Jesus Christ; 6. The Bible; 7. Prayer; 8. The Sacraments; 9. Christ's Return. For ages 2 through 12. © 1993. 14 pages

Devotional Materials

Names & Attributes of God.

An alphabetical list of the names and attributes of God with Bible references for personal meditation. Also included are sample prayers and meditations on each of the names. © 2007, 52 pages.



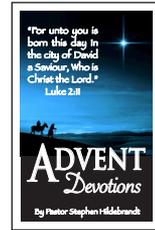
Names & Attributes: Flash Cards.

Flash cards containing over 400 names and attributes of God, Scripture references, and notes, arranged alphabetically, front and back on 8½ by 5½ inch cards. Ideal for praise and prayer, and personal devotions.



Advent Devotions.

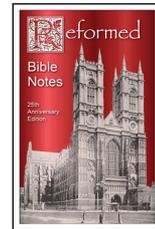
The time leading up to Christmas can be an especially rich time of reflection and meditation upon the birth of our Lord. Contained within these Advent Devotions are four weeks worth of daily devotional material and songs for individual or family devotions, designed to draw the Christian's attention upon Christ and off of the commercialism surrounding the secular celebration of Christmas. © 1997. 70 pages.



Reference Materials

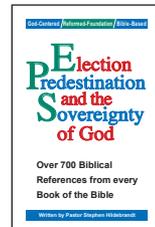
Reformed Bible Notes.

Alphabetically arranged notes on more than 150 topics, compiled over 25 years. Biblical outlines for help in personal or small group studies, or one-on-one counselling and discipleship. Social issues, apologetics, and reformed subjects provide rational arguments, so the Christian is always ready to give a defense of the faith, from a biblical world view. © 2004, 2012, 2015. 214 pages.



Election, Predestination & Sovereignty.

A data bank of Scripture proving that election, predestination and the sovereignty of God are primary themes in Bible. Part I. Bible Survey - Over 700 verses arranged by the books of the Bible. Part II. Topical Survey - Over 500 verses showing God's sovereignty as it relates to 19 different topics. Part III. Historic Confessions of Faith. Part IV Exposition of Apparent Problem Verses. Part V. Reformed Christian Manifesto. © September 2005, 199 pages.

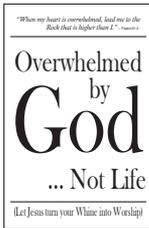


Previous Retreat Materials



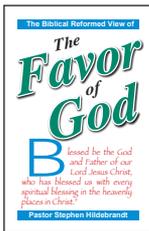
1999 - Lord, Teach Us to Pray!

Three lessons on prayer, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat. [Lesson 1](#). Prayer is the Breath of the Church. An Introduction to Prayer; Prayer is Commanded; Promises Concerning Prayer; What is Prayer? [Lesson 2](#). Approaching the Throne of Grace; Twelve Conditions for Effectual Prayer; [Lesson 3](#). The Practice of Prayer. Leaders Guide Available. © March 1999, 47 pages.



2003 - Overwhelmed by God, Not Life.

Four lessons on turning your whine into worship, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat. [Lesson 1](#). Introduction: Overwhelming Problems, Our Common Christian Condition. [Lesson 2](#). Resizing Your Problems: Comparing Them to God. [Lesson 3](#). O Magnify the Lord! Practical Steps to Seeing God's Greatness. [Lesson 4](#). Overwhelmed by God: Seven Wonders of His Glory. Leaders Guide Available. © May 2003, 30 pages.



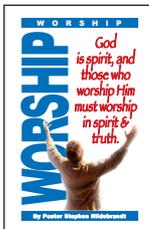
2005 - The Favor of God.

Four lessons on the God's favor, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat. [Lesson 1](#). God's Grace: Unmerited Favor Toward the Elect. [Lesson 2](#). Prodigal View: Debunking the Health & Wealth Myth. [Lesson 3](#). The Blessings of Obedience: Can God's Favor be Merited? [Lesson 4](#). The Big Picture of God's Favor: Blessed with Every Spiritual Blessing. Leaders Guide Available. © April 2005, 58 pages.



2006 - Redeem the Time.

Four lessons on redeeming the time, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat: [Lesson 1](#). Life is Short, Lord Teach us to Number our Days; [Lesson 2](#). Today is a Gift. Carpe Diem, Seize the Day; [Lesson 3](#). Redeem the Time. Bad, Better & Best Uses of Our Time; [Lesson 4](#). One Great Pursuit, Developing a Passion for Christ. Leaders Guide Available. © April 2006, 65 pages.



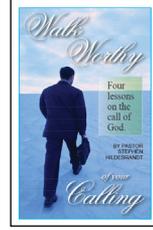
2007 - Worship.

Four lessons on worship, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat: [Lesson 1](#). The Importance of Worship, Eph. 1:5-6 - God's Chief End and Man's; [Lesson 2](#). The Manner of Worship, John 4:20-24 - Two Essential Ingredients; [Lesson 3](#). The Lifestyle of Worship, Rom. 12:1 - Becoming a Living Sacrifice; [Lesson 4](#). The Perspective of Worship, Psalm 89:6-7 - Who is Like the Lord? Leaders Guide Available. © April 2007, 62 pages.

Previous Retreat Materials

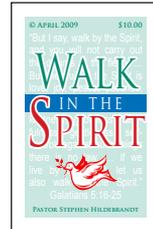
2008 - Walk Worthy.

Four lessons on the call of God, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat: Lesson 1. God's Call & Our Possession, Eph. 1:18 - The inconceivable Riches of Christ; Lesson 2. God's Call & Our Position, 2 Cor. 5:21 - The Imputed Righteousness of Christ; Lesson 3. God's Call & Our Practice, Eph. 4:1 - The Incorporated Righteousness of Christ; Lesson 4. God's Call & Our Profession, 1 Peter 2:9 - The Invested Reputation of Christ. © April 2008, 53 pages.



2009 - Walk in the Spirit.

Three lessons on walking in the Spirit, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat: Lesson 1. The Person & Work of the Spirit, John 16:13-14 - Third Person of the Trinity; Lesson 2. One Baptism, Many Fillings, 1 Cor. 12:13 - A New Covenant Distinction; Lesson 3. Walking Under the Influence, Gal. 5:16-25 0 The Spirit Filled Life. Leaders Guide Available. © April 2009, 55 pages.



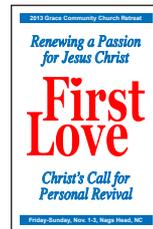
2010 - Overcoming Temptation.

Three lessons on overcoming temptation, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat: Lesson 1. Overcoming the Temptations of the World, 1 John 2:15-17 - The Love God Hates; Lesson 2. Overcoming the Temptations of the Flesh, Romans 6:6 - Consider Yourself Dead; Lesson 3. Overcoming the Temptations of the Devil, James 4:7 - Resistance is Not Futile © April 2010, 53 pages.



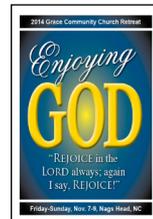
2013 - First Love.

Four lessons on Loving God, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat: Lesson 1. Letter to the Church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7); Lesson 2. Love, The Greatest Commandment (Matt. 22:34-40); Lesson 3. Last Days Global Cooling (Matt. 24:6-14); Lesson 4. Love the Fruit of a Revived Heart (Psa. 51:1-17). Leaders Guide Available. © November 2013, 37 pages.



2014 - Enjoying God.

Four lessons on enjoying God, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat: Lesson 1. The Joy of the Lord; Lesson 2. God's Design for His People: Fullness of Joy; Lesson 3. Glorious Good News of the Happy God; Lesson 4. Manifesto of a Church that Enjoys God. Leaders Guide Available. © November 2014, 37 pages.



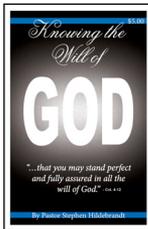
Previous Retreat Materials



2016 - Call 2 Serve.

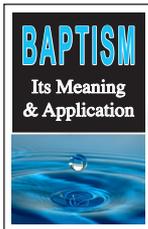
Four lessons on serving God, designed for individual or group Bible Study or a Christian retreat: [Lesson 1](#). Servant or Slaves? [Lesson 2](#). Jesus' Example; [Lesson 3](#). A Healthy Body of Christ; [Lesson 4](#). Employ Your Gifts. Leaders Guide Available. © November 2016, 68 pages.

Topical Studies



Knowing God's Will.

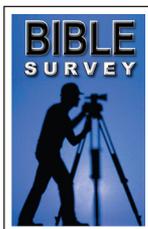
Ten lessons on knowing and doing God's will: 1. Search for Significance; 2. Two Wrong Views; 3. Old Testament Discernment; 4. New Covenant Changes; 5. Being Versus Doing; 6. God's Will Personified in Christ; 7. The Key: Draw Near to God; 8. God's Unique Plan for Your Life; 9. What About My Past Mistakes? 10. Summary of Principles. ©1995, 2004. 40 pages.



The Sacrament of Baptism.

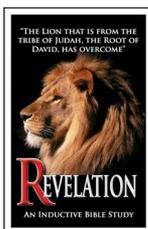
Lessons on baptism, looking at its biblical and historical foundation, as well as its symbolic meaning. Lessons include: 1. Sacraments: Visible Signs of an Invisible Grace; 2. Circumcision: Sign of the Old Covenant; 3. Christ: The Transition Between the Old and New Covenants; 4. Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant; 5. The Lawful Administration of Baptism. © June 1999, 24 pages.

Books of the Bible



Bible Survey

An overview of every book of the Bible, including a one or two word title, and key verse, plus the: 1. Argument (Purpose or Theme); 2. Author; 3. Audience; 4. Attribute/Name of Christ; 5. Abbreviated Outline; 6. Additional Notes; 7. Applications, Action Items & Attitude Adjustments; Leader's guide available. © January 2008, 207 pages.



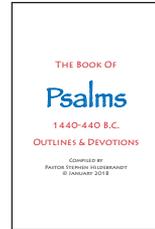
Revelation.

An inductive Bible study through the Book of Revelation, background material on the Apostle John, his circumstances and apocalyptic writing style, and the historical setting of seven churches to whom John sent his Revelation. A wealth of supplementary material is included for the reader to really dig into Revelation. Leader's guide available. ©August 2009, 195 pages.

Books of the Bible

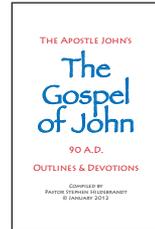
The Book of Psalms.

An outline and overview of the Book of Psalms, background information on the authors, plus outlines and daily devotional commentaries through each of the 150 psalms. April 2018, ~350 pages.



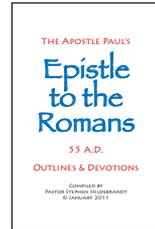
The Gospel of John.

An outline of the Gospel of John, background information on the Apostle John, plus section outlines and daily devotional commentaries through the John's Gospel. © December 2012, 88 pages.



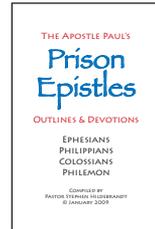
The Epistle to the Romans.

An outline of the Epistle to the Romans, background information on the Apostle Paul, plus section outlines and daily devotional commentaries through the Apostle Paul's epistle to the church in Rome. © January 2011, 56 pages.



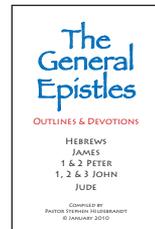
The Prison Epistles.

An outline for each of the prison epistles, background information on the Apostle Paul, plus section outlines and daily devotional commentaries through each of the Apostle Paul's prison epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. © February 2009, 103 pages.

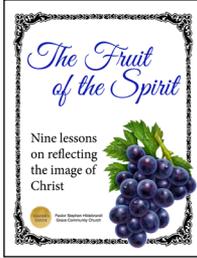


The General Epistles.

An outline for each of the general epistles, background information on the authors, plus section outlines and daily devotional commentaries through each of the general epistles: Hebrews, James, 1st Peter, 2nd Peter, 1st John, 2nd John, 3rd John, and Jude. © November 2010, 163 pages.

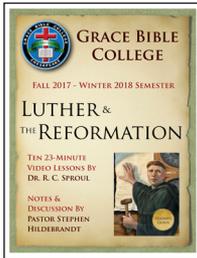


Grace Bible College Series



Fruit of the Spirit.

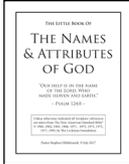
Nine lessons on reflecting the image of Christ: 1. Love, The Greatest Commandment; 2. Joy, A Countenance that Matches our Testimony; 3. Peace, With God, Of God & With Others; 4. Patience, Waiting Without Complaint; 5. Kindness, The Imitation of God's Mercy; 6. Goodness, Virtue in Action; 7. Faithfulness, Measure of Stewardship; 8. Gentleness, Meekness & Humility; 9. Self-Control, Denying & Dying to Self. © 2017, 59 pages.



Luther & the Reformation.

Supplemental notes to R. C. Sproul's DVD series produced in house. Ten lessons include Luther & the Lightning Bolt; 2. Monastery & Rome Crises; 3. Tower Experience; 4. Building St. Peters; 5. Indulgence Controversy; 6. Progress to Worms; 7. Catholic View of Justification, Part 1; 8. Catholic View of Justification, Part 2; 9. Protestant View of Justification; 10. Rome's Objections Answered. © June 2018, 46 pages.

Other



Little Book of the Names & Attributes of God.

A pocket sized (4¼ x 5½ inches), alphabetically arranged compendium of the names, titles, attributes and abilities of God from the Bible, Christian literature and worship music. © July 2017, 22 pages.