

Worship

November 21, 2010

If you want to judge how well a person understand 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. [Adoption] is the highest privilege the gospel offers.That justification--by which we mean God's forgiveness of the past together with his acceptance of the future--is the primary and fundamental blessing is not in questionBut...adoption is higher, because of the richer relationship with God that it involves. J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, chap 19.

The profound truth of Roman adoption was that the adoptee was taken out of his previous state and placed in a new relationship of son to his new father....All his old debts are cancelled, and in effect the adoptee started a new life as part of his new family. Francis Lyall, *Slaves, Citizens, and Sons*.

On the one hand, the gospel changes us because it changes our thinking, bringing it "in line with the truth". But on the other hand, the gospel changes us because it brings us into actual contact with the Father. It will not be enough to simply know that God accepts you freely in Christ, but you must actually experience that love shed in your heart through the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us to "call out, 'Abba', Father" (Gal.4:6), and unless we have this experience, we will continue to act as a slave (Gal.4:7), whether to the duties of our role or the desires of our hearts. We therefore must learn to preach the gospel to ourselves (as in Gal.4:4-5) until it catches fire in our hearts and captures our imagination (as in Gal.4:6-7). Tim Keller, *Son or Slave Project*.

Welcome

Prelude and Time for Reflection

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Confession of Faith (Apostle's Creed, 4th c.)

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Children's Worship)

Giving Back to God: Offering

Please use the form on the back and place it in the offering plate and we will let you know about up coming events.

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Galatians 3.26 - 4.7*

²⁶ For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

⁴ I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Rejoicing as Free Sons (and Inheriting Daughters) of God

Outline:

1. How We are Made Sons
2. Stories of Our Sonship
3. Living as Sons and Inheriting Daughters

Discussion:

What questions do you have of the text or what application do you see in it?



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Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father, you are not just Most Honorable Father, but Abba, not because we are childish but because of your desire and what you have accomplished in Christ. But we forget this. Looking back on our week, there have been times we lived with the anxiety of orphans and the approval-seeking of slaves. We are alone, 'redoubling our efforts,mjj' instead of seeking your fatherly help.

Teach us the richness of being adopted into your family. Woo us by your radical inclusion because of Jesus. Cause us to wonder at being clothed in Christ and instruct us how to put him on each day. Let your Spirit fuel us to cry out "Abba." Remind us of your promised inheritance-- an actual share of your glory. Jesus has won this all for us, for me; praise be to Jesus.

Private Reflection

Words of Forgiveness

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1.8,9)

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.

Responding with Song

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2: 16, 17

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted that I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.



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Grace Hill is a church that seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (see John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of Christ's grace and truth.

Our pastor is Ross Durham; he can be reached by email at ross@gracehillchurch.net or by cell phone at 919.593.2169.

Our Worship Director is Michael Musser and our Children's Ministry Co-Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez.

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Please let us know about your visit with us!
Also feel free to ask any questions about
Grace Hill.

Please fill out the form to the right and place
in the offering basket during "Giving back to
God."

Or if you prefer you can send your name,
email address, and mailing address by txt to
919 593 2169 or by email to
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