

## 5. The blessings of adoption

### **Access to God**

Ephesians 2:18, "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."

John 20:17, Hebrews 2:11, Luke 11:1-4, Romans 8:15

### **The Father is on our side**

Matthew 3:16-17, "... with whom I am well pleased."

### **Suffering**

Hebrews 12:5-11

### **Family obligations: to God... and to our brethren**

### **A heavenly home**

Romans 8:17

'Home! All that is wrapped up in that sweet, transcendent word, heightened, sanctified, glorified, and projected everlastingly; our Father's house, because Jesus' Father's house, with all it includes, of fellowship with God the Trinity, with holy angels, with glorified saints, with elect relatives, brethren and friends. Ineffable communion! And to this will be added, if to it aught can be added, all outward circumstances of glory which can be collected by an Almighty Father around the brethren of his Son.' John Girardeau

## Resources

J.I. Packer, "Knowing God" (chapter on adoption)

Garry Williams, "The sons and the children of God" (online lectures)

## **Adoption**

**Romans 8:12-30**

### Discuss:

- Read Hebrews 4:16, 7:25, 10:19-22.
- What encouragements are here to draw near to God in prayer?

## 1. We are not by nature children of God

Ephesians 2:1-3 – "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience -<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."

John 8:44 - "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires..."

## 2. The Old Testament story of the "sons of God"

### **Adam**

- Luke 3:38, "... Adam, the son of God..."

### **Israel**

- Romans 9:4
- Exodus 4:22, Deut. 14:1, Isaiah 64:8
- Israel's adoption at Sinai, Galatians 3:23-4:6

### **The King**

- 2 Sam. 7:14-15, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him..."
- Psalm 2:7, "I will tell of the decree: the Lord said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'."

### **Jesus**

- The divine Son
- The human Son: last Adam, true Israel, David's Son.

#### **Westminster Confession of Faith - XII**

All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for His only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God; have His name put upon them, receive the Spirit of adoption; have access to the throne of grace with boldness; are enabled to cry, Abba, Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by Him as by a Father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.

### **3. Our adoption as sons: the work of the Trinity**

#### **The Father:**

Ephesians 1:4–6: 'In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.'

#### **The Son:**

'But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.' (Gal. 4:4–5)

#### **The Holy Spirit:**

'the Spirit of adoption', Romans 8:15.

### **4. Our adoption as sons: a "now" and a "not yet"**

Romans 8:15, 'you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons'

Romans 8:23, 'we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies'