

FOREVER FAMILY: GOSPEL ADOPTION

Gal 4:1-7

4.26.26

Spiritual adoption doesn't just mean you belong to God; it means God gives himself to you

Three anchors to mature & deepen your experience of the wonder of true belonging in God's family:

#1 TRUST GOD'S WISE PACE (1-2)

STAGES ARE REAL | GOD DOESN'T DO EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE

Three challenging realities that trusting God's pace helps us to appreciate:

#1 **Complexity**: Trusting God's pace enables us to appreciate life's *layered nature*

Well-designed complexity doesn't mean disordered chaos – '*...the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave though he is owner....*' (1)

#2 **Authority**: Trusting God's pace enables us to appreciate life's *tiered structures*

Authority structures are not a design flaw, but a feature – '*...guardians and managers....father...*' (2a)

#3 **Sequentially**: Trusting God's pace enables us to appreciate life's *progressive procedures*

Seasons have their place, and are best neither rushed, nor delayed – '*...until the date set...*' (2b)

#2 GRASP GOD'S SURE GRACE (3-5)

THE WAIT IS OVER | REDEMPTION HAS COME

Four adoption-related terminations brought by God's grace that we can come to grasp:

#1 **Custody**: Grasping God's grace means realizing he has brought an end to our temporary guardianship

The law's governing season is over – '*...[As] children...[we] were enslaved to the elementary principles ...*' (3)

#2 **Ambiguity**: Grasping God's grace means realizing he arrived on time, in person, from on high, & for good

Jesus is the promised fulfilment – '*...when the fullness of time had come, God sent for his Son...*' (4a)

#3 **Contingencies**: Grasping God's grace means he took care of all procedural requirements for redemption in full

Jesus accomplished all that was required – '*...born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law...*' (4b-5a)

#4 **Hesitancy**: Grasping God's grace means he secured our permanent place of belonging in His forever family

Jesus secured your spot in God's family – '*...so that we might receive adoption as sons...*' (5b)

#3 CLAIM YOUR NEW PLACE (6-7)

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY | IN CHRIST, WE SHARE IN THE PRIVILEGES AS HEIRS

Three incalculable blessings secured as adoption implications of your new position to claim:

#1 **Identity**: Our place in Christ includes a new kind of belonging to enjoy – God loves us without fail

Live from the security of being an incontrovertible part of God's family as his child – '*...you are sons...*' (6a)

#2 **Intimacy**: Our place in Christ includes a new kind of compassion to access – God hears us without fail

Live with certainty that your heart-cry always has your Father's ear – '*...God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"...*' (6b)

#3 **Inheritance**: Our place in Christ includes a new kind of heritage to await – God includes us without fail

Live with anticipation that a matchless and irrevocable inheritance is yours – '*...you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God...*' (7)