



Sermon Series Notes

“Adoption & Redemption” (Selected Scriptures)

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Intro: James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

God has a very special place in His heart for orphans & widows.

Psalm 68:5-6 A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families...

Deut.10:18 He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow...

See Luke 7:11-15

In Acts 6, the early church had a problem with the Grecian widows being overlooked in the daily distribution of food, and the apostles made sure that this problem was solved, because they knew God’s heart toward orphans and widows.

I Timothy 5:3-4 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first to put their religion into practice by caring for their own families and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

My mother caring for my grandmother, Ward and Ann Ellis, Dave San Souci, etc.

We have a ministry here at CCSP that is specifically for widows, it’s called “Widow to Widow.” If you are a widow, you should take advantage of it. WIDOW TO WIDOW. Picnic Sunday Nov. 2 at 1pm at Freedom Park, 2nd pavilion on left, just up road at 49th St. Exit. Bring your lunch and a side to share, or there’s plenty to eat if you can’t. Widow to Widow meets the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month across the street in Mainlands neighborhood. For details contact Gail Price at 463-7601.

We could say more about ministry to widows, but our primary focus today is on orphans. God has also raised up a ministry here at CCSP that focuses on orphans, especially those in our own backyard.

Intro Tom Teel: Beginning of 4 Kids, statistics of orphans in our own backyard, where we are, where we’re headed, how to get involved.

Deut.14:28-29 At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites...and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Deut.24:19-21 When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow.

Someone has called these the fields of the fatherless. God established this law so that any widow, orphan, or stranger ***within the vicinity of God's people*** would be provided for. Every person in God's family was to do this, it was not optional.

I John 3:16-18 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

I want to give you three biblical reasons for being involved in ministering to orphans in some form or fashion.

IT PROVIDES EVIDENCE THAT YOUR RELIGION IS PURE

IT IS CENTRAL TO THE HEART OF GOD

GOD IS IN THE ADOPTION BUSINESS

Romans 9:4...theirs is the adoption as sons...

Ephesians 1:4-5 for he chose us in him before the creation of the world...In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

God intended to adopt us before the dawn of human history, before God spoke His all-powerful, life-giving words, "Let there be!" And Paul states that God did this "in love" (v. 4). John Piper said ***adoption is greater than the universe.***

Adoption is the highest blessing of the gospel. J.I. Packer writes, "adoption is the highest blessing of the Gospel, higher even than the gift of justification (Rom.3:24; 5:19; I Cor.6:11; Titus 3:7) because of the richer relationship with God that it involves. Justification is a *forensic* idea, conceived in terms of *law*, and viewing God as *judge*. Adoption is a *family* idea, conceived in terms of *love*, and viewing God as *father*. In adoption, God takes us into His family and fellowship, and establishes us as His children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the father is greater." (*Knowing God*, 186-188).

Galatians 4:4-6 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

See John 14:15-18; Note that the word for orphans is same as in James 1:27.

Adoption is the grand purpose & objective of redemption. God sent His Son to redeem us *so that* we might be adopted into his family!

Our adoption into God's family has an incredible future climax

Romans 8:23...we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

The glorification of our bodies is the consummation of our adoption.

Rev.21:3-4 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

The truth of adoption cultivates a deep longing for the consummation of God's redemptive purposes.

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

What is the "Abba! Father!" cry? Though I do believe "Abba! Father!" is an inner cry of familial intimacy ("God, you are *my* Father!"), I do not think that its primary significance lies in its familial intimacy. Rather, it is primarily a hope-filled *cry for deliverance*—a cry grounded in the reality of Jesus' redemptive accomplishment. Ultimately, we should understand the "Abba! Father!" cry as the intense expression of our deep inward groaning for the completion of our redemption. It is the Spirit's work to make us long for the full realization of our adoption. Jesus, our Elder Brother, is the only one on record in Scripture who ever cried, "Abba, Father." Where was he when he cried this? He was in the Garden of Gethsemane on the eve of his going to the cross. When "Abba! Father!" came from Jesus' sinless lips, it was a humble yet impassioned cry for deliverance: "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Although Jesus prayed for the removal of the cup, he humbly submitted to his Father's will and drank every last drop. In doing so he has made possible an indescribably good gift to us—the gift of sonship through adoption into His Father's family.

His sacrifice gave us the opportunity to be adopted into God's family. As a result of His sacrifice for us, He calls us to sacrifice for others. And our ultimate goal is not a humanitarian cause but a heavenly one. No community of people in this world should be more attuned to the needs of orphans than those of us who have been adopted into God's family. So, we, of all people on earth, should lead the way in caring for & ministering to orphans.

CONCLUSION

Deut.27:19 Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, the fatherless or the widow.

I read a very convicting statement this past week, it goes like this: "If the fields are white unto harvest, why do we spend all of our money painting the barn?"

