Intro: 1 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. Galatians 4:1-7

• What is adoption?

° When we are born again, we have become a child of God – 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God – Jn. 1:12, 13

° We are then legally recognizing as a child of God – 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 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!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him – Rm. 8:14-17.

° We now live in a new status and position in the life of Christ – 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved – Eph. 1:5.

II. Our Responsibilities of being adopted – 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, Ephesians 1:5

Let us place the Advantages and the Responsibilities side by side:

a. Adopted children have received the Holy Spirit

• There is no greater incentive to holy living than the constant reminder that the Holy Spirit dwells within.

Adam Clarke in his commentary one Ephesian stated “that same Spirit, the Spirit of adoption; that is, the Spirit who witnesses this adoption; which can be no other than the Holy Ghost himself, and certainly cannot mean any disposition or affection of mind which the adopted person may feel; for such a disposition must arise from a knowledge of this adoption, and the knowledge of this adoption cannot be given by any human or earthly means; it must come from God himself: therefore the must have reference to that Spirit, by whom alone the knowledge of the adoption is witnessed to the soul of the believer.

° 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:16, 17

b. Adopted children will carry the name of the Lord

• There is nothing more to dishonor God than to disrespect His name. The desired response to the gospel message was that people will believe and obey Him, bringing glory to his name. Faith and obedience are inseparable. Real faith will always lead to obedience; real obedience comes from faith.

° 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:5-7

c. Adopted children will be conformed into the Lord’s image

• We are to be submissive to the hands of our heavenly Father the Potter. Sometimes His dealings with us may be painful, and often they will be perplexing, but always they are for our good.

° 8 But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8

d. Adopted children needs to expect to be disciplined

• God will only chastise the one’s whom He loves. He will not chastise the sinners only the children of God. Sin will chastise the sinner. His sin will condemn and punish Him without the help of the Lord. Our chastising is out of live not of hate. Do you punish your children out of hate or love?

° 5 . . . “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” Hebrews 12:5, 6

e. Adopted children will experience the Fathers comfort

• We all can experience His comfort, and once we have experience this, we need to share this to others. How blessed it is for us to experience His comfort and let us be very careful that we do not become selfish and self-centered in our enjoyment of His blessings.

° 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

f. Adopted children enjoy their liberty

• We should enjoy His liberty. Let us be victorious over every form of carnal and legal bondage. Lazarus was raised from the dead, but he had “his hands and feet bound, and His face was wrapped. It took the words of Jesus to set him free. He commanded them to roll the stone away. He commanded them to loosen the bandages, and then he commanded the dead to walk. Obedience is the key to freedom.

° 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:2-4

g. Adopted children will share the glory of God

• And why not! We were in the death grips of sin, satan, and self. Why not tell others how to win the battle over these problems. Why not share the gospel of Jesus Christ. You’re not making anyone do anything. Bill O’Reilly believes that this is bible thumping, or what he would call it “proselyting”. When in fact it is called “sharing the gospel.” No one makes anyone do anything they don’t want to.

° 1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:1, 2

° 30 the lion, which is mightiest among beasts and does not turn back before any; Proverbs 30:30