

***I Am Adopted - Romans 8:12-1***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

I spent much of my childhood being known as “Andy’s boy.” Most of the time I didn’t mind it, but sometimes I just wanted to be “Mike”. As a basketball coach and a church leader my dad was well known in the two worlds we spent much of our time in, the sports and church world. Everyone knew my dad. We couldn’t go anywhere without someone shouting out to my dad which then often led to a long conversation that always included my dad saying, “I want you to meet my son.” I really didn’t want to meet these people, and I’m pretty sure they weren’t interested in getting to know my dad’s mini-me. More important, it meant there was one more person in the world who would eternally know me as “Andy’s boy”.

We get so much of our sense of identity from our family. Often it begins with the reality that we couldn’t disown our parents if we wanted, we look just like them. But more than this, our family has shaped our sense of self as well as the values, mannerisms, and attitudes we have. And at the heart of the family is dad. For many of us, when we think of our dads we have fond memories and being compared to him is not all that bad. Yet, for others reading this, their fathers were cruel, distant, angry, or even absent men. But the truth is that we cannot escape the fact that our fathers and family have shaped the people we are today.

One of the great truths about our redemption revealed in Scripture is the reality that God has adopted us into His family, making us sons and daughters of God. Theologian author J. I Packer said that being adopted by God as Father is, “highest privilege that the gospel offers: higher even than justification. . . To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater.” What a beautiful picture, a person who was a slave and enemy of God was chosen by God to be brought into His family. God has given us the Spirit of adoption and has become our Father. This is not minor, it is the key to understanding our redemption. Again, from Packer:

*If you want to judge how well a person understands 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.*

*For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. 'Father' is the Christian name for God. Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption."*

Central to understanding this new identity I have in Christ is the reality that I am a child of God, eternally loved by a Father who will never abandon me. But it gets better. When Paul says, “By whom we cry, ‘Abba, Father,’” he is giving us an image that is so beautiful and amazing. In every language on earth the name given to the female parent is some form of “Mama”. Simple explanation, the first consonant formed on the lips of a baby is the “m” sound, hence, mama. The second consonant is usually a d or a b, so in every language the father is called dada or abba, and in 1<sup>st</sup> Century language of the Jews, Aramaic, the most intimate term for one’s father was “Abba.” Paul is painting a picture of a child, barely pulling themselves up on the couch and walking around the room like a drunk person toward the outstretched arms of their father repeating over and over again “Abba, abba,” or to us, “dada, dada”. And this Father will never abandon, never treat us cruelly, never stop loving. God is our Father, we are His children. This is who we are.

Adoption is both a transaction and a process. When someone adopts a child they

legally become their children, even taking on the last name of new parents at that moment. Yet, it takes a long process for the identity of the child to be shaped by the last name taken on. Years of love, grace, forgiveness, and patience can reshape the identity of an adopted child. If you are a follower of Jesus you have been adopted by God into His family. You have a new Father, have been given a new name, have a place at His table, have a new family with an amazing older brother, and you have a promised home. But it can take a lifetime for your identity to be reshaped by this Father and family. But the way we do this is by constantly reminding self, as Packer again reminds, "Meanwhile, the immediate message of our hearts is surely this. Do I, as a Christian, understand myself? Do I know my own real identity? I am a child of God. God is my Father; heaven is my home; every day is one day nearer. My Savior is my brother; every Christian is my brother too. Say it over and over to yourself.

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Titus 3	Zephaniah 1	Zephaniah 2	Zephaniah 3	Colossians 1	Colossians 2	Colossians 3

Reading from this past week: Romans 8:12-16

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Philippians 3:17-21, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

**Family Worship**

Song - *Made Alive*

<https://youtu.be/9dhh6F38kDE>

Gospel Project

Story: No Other Gospel

Story Point: Believers are saved and grow in godliness by faith in Jesus.

Big Picture Question: What is the Bible about?

Answer: The Bible is the story of God’s plan to save people through Jesus.

Scripture: Galatians 1-3

New City Catechism

Question #21: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

Answer: One who is truly human and also truly God.

Verse: Isaiah 9:6

Scripture

Romans 8:12-16

- What are some ways your earthly family have shaped your identity?
- Do you know someone who has either been adopted or has adopted children? How does the metaphor of adoption help us understand our relationship with God?
- What is Paul communicating by using the term, “Abba, Father?” Do you feel comfortable calling God your “dada” or daddy?

Prayer

\*Pray that as our church goes through our May prayer emphasis on being thankful we would become a more prayerful and thankful people.

\*Give thanks to God for adopting you as His child and including you in His redeemed family.