



## RELATING

July 19, 2020

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Jesus is the solid rock upon which we build our faith and our lives. In addition, there are foundational truths the Bible that tell us who we are in Christ. Knowing our identity in Him gives us a foundation to stand on and build our lives on in crazy times.

[Q] What things in our world (besides Christ) are clamoring to be the source of our identity?

Our world bombards us with so many competing ideas as to who we are and where we find our identity. It seems as if someone else is always set on defining us or pushing us into defining ourselves. For instance, the shoes we wear, where we live, the music we listen to, our political party, our ethnicity, even the phone we use.

So, who are we? We begin today with the foundational truth that if you belong to Jesus, you are a son or daughter of God. You are related! This relationship has profound implications for how we fit in the new normal.

[Q] According to the following verses, what is your relationship to God, if you belong to Christ?

John 1:12

1 John 3:1

I am His \_\_\_\_\_.

### I am Adopted as His Child

[Q] According to Galatians 4:4-7 and Romans 8:14-17, what are the implications of being adopted as a son/daughter of God? What results does God's Spirit produce?

Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Romans 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> 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!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> 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.

"God has done what no human can do –  
in adopting us he has also given us the nature of our Father (2 Peter 1:4)."  
— Sinclair Ferguson, *The Christian Life*

In the Roman world, a wealthy, childless man might adopt someone as his heir. (This heir would be male, and so Paul describes all Christians—men and women—as “sons.”) The moment adoption occurred...

- the new son’s old debts were canceled.
- he got a new name and became heir of all his new father had.
- his new father became liable for all his actions.
- the new son had an obligation to please and honor his father.<sup>1</sup>

[Q] Why is it amazing to have been adopted in this way by God?

...he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ,  
according to the purpose of his will... Ephesians 1:5 (ESV)

In the sermon, *The Weight of Glory*, all of us have what C.S. Lewis describes as a “longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we now feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always only seen from the outside.

### Respond

The new normal pulls us away from relationships, and that includes with God!

In Romans 8:15 (we cry, “Abba! Father!”), “the verb Paul uses is *krazein*, and in the New Testament it denotes a loud cry, often a cry or shriek of anguish (cf. Mk. 15:39, our Lord’s cry on the Cross; Rev. 12:2, a woman in childbirth). The picture is not that of the believer resting quietly in his Father’s arms in childlike faith, but of the child who has tripped and fallen crying out in pain, ‘Daddy, Daddy’. That cry is the mark of the presence of the Spirit of adoption, not least because it shows that in time of need it is towards our Father in heaven that we look. — Sinclair Ferguson, *The Christian Life*

[Q] If you feel fearful, rejected or alone this week, how will the knowledge that you belong to God as His beloved adopted son or daughter change the way you think?

**Talk to God** as your Father who chose you as His child, right now. Enjoy this intimacy with Him. In what areas are struggling or sad? Cry out to Him for help in these areas.

[Q] What can you do remember to Whom you belong this week?

**Listen** to His voice in His Word on a daily basis. What's your plan to do so? \_\_\_\_\_

**Listen** to the song: No Longer Slaves - [youtu.be/Qny6zKQ6Z2k](https://youtu.be/Qny6zKQ6Z2k)