

Understanding that in our salvation we are adopted into God's family and enjoy a Father-child relationship with God is foundational for Christian living. Perhaps the strongest passage in Scripture dealing with the doctrine of adoption is found in Romans 8:14-16: "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received the spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." This passage affirms the idea that, in our salvation, we are adopted into God's family as an act of His grace. It also affirms that the believer enjoys a close filial relationship with God as his Father. The Aramaic, "Abba" is a term of close relationship. This passage also mentions an important application of the doctrine of adoption, the fact that we are not given "a spirit of slavery leading to fear again." The Westminster Confession of Faith summarizes the glory of our salvation in this regard: "The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the gospel consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the curse of the moral law; and, in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin; from the evil of afflictions, the sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation; as also, in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but a child-like love and willing mind" (20.1). Dr. David Jones comments on this: "Slavish fear" refers to conformity to the moral law motivated by the threat of punishment. But this is not what the Bible means by obedience. As Augustine observed, "if the commandment be done through fear of penalty and not through love of righteousness, it is done in the temper of servitude not freedom - and therefore it is not done at all." A 'child-like love,' on the other hand, is motivated by the thought of pleasing one's heavenly Father and so yields the true obedience of a willing mind. The glory of the gospel is that it creates such motivation, though not without internal struggle as the apostle Paul himself attests (Rom. 7:21-25) ("Christian Freedom," In Covenant Magazine, Aug. & Sept., 1998, p. 9).

J. I. Packer argues that the entire Christian life should be understood in terms of adoption. He writes: "Sonship must be the controlling thought - the normative category, if you like - at every point. This follows from the nature of the case, and is strikingly confirmed by the fact that our Lord's teaching on Christian discipleship is cast in these terms" (Knowing God, p. 190). Dr. Packer carefully works his way through the Sermon on the Mount showing that the ethics and mandates for Christian living are presented in terms of a Father-child relationship. For example, Jesus said that we are to imitate our Father: "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. . . . Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:44,45, 48). Our way of life is to glorify our Father: "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). Jesus also preached that our actions are to please our Father (Matt. 6:1-18). Our giving, praying, and fasting are done to glorify and please God and not men. We are to trust God because, if we are redeemed, he is our Father: "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat? or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things" (Matt. 6:31,32) (See: Knowing God, p. 190-193). What motivates you in your Christian life? Are you motivated by fear of punishment or by wanting to glorify, imitate, and please the God who is your spiritual Father?

Some sections taken from an article by Rev. Angus Stewart.
In His Service,
Pastor Spears

Upcoming Events

April 1-3	PCRT CONFERENCE
April 3	Churchwide Fellowship Supper
April 6	WIC Council
April 6	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
April 10	Nursery Workers' Banquet
April 10	Missions Committee Meeting
April 11	Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
April 12-13	WIC Circles
April 16	WIC Shower for Meredith Altman
April 17	The Lord's Supper at the evening service
April 18	Young At Heart
April 20	No Wednesday evening activities
April 21	Maundy Thursday Service
April 22	Good Friday Lunch and Service
April 24	Sunrise Service
April 27	CE Committee Meeting
April 28	Calvary Presbytery
April 28	Jessamines

Mark Your Calendars!

Graduation Banquet	May 4
CAT Kids Program	May 11
Blood Drive	May 11
New Members' Luncheon	May 15
General Assembly	June 6-10
Vacation Bible School	June 20-24
Sr. High Summer Conference	July 10-16

Upcoming Graduates

If you are an upcoming graduate (May or December) please contact the church office (ext. 10 or judy@secondpca.org). We want to recognize all our graduates at our upcoming banquet in May.

Music Notes

Attention Choir Members:
Please note the following rehearsal schedule for PCRT:

Friday, April 1:	6:15 pm
Saturday, April 2:	5:30 pm
Sunday, April 3:	8:00 am and 10:30 am

There will be no Sunday afternoon rehearsal on April 3.

Baptism

Eugene Thomas Holman, covenant child of Michael and Julia Holman received the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, March 27, 2011. We are thankful for the Holman family and pray for Eugene, that he will love and serve the Lord all the days of his life.

A Big Thank You

A big thanks to everyone for helping with the church-wide workdays Friday night and Saturday morning. We particularly want to recognize Pat Shuford and the many ladies for organizing the inside cleaning of the church, Alan Farley, Jacob Gamble and the Deacons for coordinating the outside cleaning and mulching and Evelyn Watkins for care of the courtyard and church garden areas. Over 50 members participated throughout the weekend and got the church ready for PCRT and Easter. Thanks again.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper

There will be no Wednesday night supper this week, March 30th, due to ongoing construction in the gym. **We will have Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 6:55 pm.** Wednesday night suppers will resume April 6th as renovations will be finished by this Thursday. The Conference Room will be available for ministry use beginning next week. The Deacons thank you for your patience through our renovation.

PCRT This Weekend!

Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology 2011
Children of God: Adopted into the Father's Love
April 1-3, 2011
Second Presbyterian Church
Speakers: *Joel Beeke, Richard Phillips, Derek Thomas, David Wells*
Its not too late to sign up but you need to do so ASAP
to get the discounted church member rate.
Registration brochures are located around the church.

Welcome

We welcome to the pulpit this Lord's Day at the morning worship services, as part of our PCRT Conference, Dr. David Wells. Dr. Wells is an Alliance Council member and professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, MA, and will be bringing the final PCRT address on adoption titled, *All in the Family*.

April 3 Sunday School

We will have an all-adult Sunday School Class, taught by Pastor Phillips, this Lord's Day during the PCRT. All adults (7th grade and up) will meet in the sanctuary at 9:55 am.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to order an Easter Lily to place in the church on Easter Sunday in memory or honor of someone special, please call Judy Bishop (246-0951) by **Friday, April 15**. Also fill out the form below and place in the church office in Judy Grant's mail box along with \$10.00 for each lily.

I would like to place _____ (how many) Easter Lily(ies) in the church on Easter Sunday:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 3

8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 9:55 AM **ALL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**
(7th grade and up will meet in the sanctuary)
 9:55 AM **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**
(6th grade and under will meet in their regular classes)
 10:00 AM Communicants Class
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 5:30 PM Prayer in the Chapel for the Congregation and Officers
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir

Monday, April 4

Tuesday, April 5

10:00 AM WIC Bible Study
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828

Wednesday, April 6

5:00 PM WIC Council
 5:00 PM Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
 5:45 PM **Family Night Fellowship Supper**
 6:15 PM Covenant Choir
 6:45 PM CAT Kids and Covenant Kids
 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
 6:45 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Thursday, April 7

9:30 AM WIC Precepts Bible Study

Friday, April 8

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Saturday, April 9

New Members' Class

The New Members' Class will not meet this Lord's Day, April 3, 2011, during the PCRT Conference. The class will resume Sunday, April 10, at 9:45 am for Lesson 5.

LOST AND FOUND: Several keys (1 set, 1 car key, and 1 misc. key) have been located in the church and are being held in the church office. If you think these might be your lost keys, please call the church office (ext. 10). If not claimed in two weeks the keys will be thrown away.

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following member.
 Also, send her a note of encouragement.

Mrs. Mildred Holcomb
National Health Care Center
850 E. Butler Road, Room 312-A
Greenville, SC 29607

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY APRIL 3, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

ALL IN THE FAMILY
GALATIANS 6:10

Anthem:

Now Let Us all Praise God and Sing

Hymns: 1, 170, 469

Dr. David Wells preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

BEFORE THE LORD

2 Samuel 6:16-23

Hymns: 164, 169, 677

Psalter: Psalm 106 (verses 1-12)

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching



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Letter From The Associate Minister Adoption

Justification has been and continues to be a "hot" theological topic. And rightly so. It was the "hallmark" doctrine of the Reformation and is the crucial doctrine of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, if you get justification wrong, you have the Gospel wrong, and therefore you are looking to a false Christ and a false gospel and so are in danger of everlasting judgment.

BUT!!!! Because the doctrine of justification is so important, we often forget that it is not the ultimate purpose of God. Justification is a means to an end. I want us to focus upon that end (at least as far as we are concerned). The highest privilege that can be bestowed on a person is to be adopted into God's family. In our salvation, God not only redeems us from our sins and imputes Christ's righteousness to us, but also adopts us into his very family. J. I. Packer writes: "Some textbooks on Christian doctrine - Berkhof's, for instance - treat adoption as a mere sub-section of justification, but this is inadequate. The two ideas are distinct, and adoption is the more exalted. Justification is a forensic idea, conceived in terms of law and viewing God as judge. In justification, God declares of penitent believers that they are not, and never will be, liable to the death that their sins deserve, because Jesus Christ, their substitute and sacrifice, tasted death in their place on the cross. This free gift of acquittal and peace, won for us at the cost of Calvary, is wonderful enough, in all conscience - but justification does not of itself imply any intimate or deep relationship with God the judge. In idea, at any rate, you could have the reality of justification without any close fellowship with God resulting. But contrast this, now, with adoption. 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, p. 187, 188).

John 1:12,13 shows the connection between regeneration, faith in Christ, and adoption: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." This passage states that those who receive or believe in Him (Jesus) are given the right or authority to become children of God. Faith is a prerequisite to adoption; only those who believe in Christ become children of God. This verse also teaches an important truth concerning the relationship of regeneration, faith, and adoption. Verse 13 states that those who believe and are consequently adopted into God's family are those who have first of all been born of God. They were not born of God because of anything in themselves (not "the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man"). This demonstrates again the grace of God in our salvation. A person is born of God solely by the sovereign monergistic work of God, is granted faith, and as a result of the exercise of that faith is justified and adopted into God's family.