

- DEVOTIONAL OF THE MONTH -

Marriage, Family, & Single Parents



Adopted and Adored

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"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10

Did you know you were adopted?

Maybe you started life in the womb of the woman who raised you. Perhaps you carry your father's eye color and a stranger could pick out your siblings in a crowd because of your overt genetic similarities. Whether you were brought into your family in a hospital room or an adoption courtroom, if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, the Bible declares that you have indeed been adopted. In fact, before your heart ever beat in the security of your mother's womb and your genes formed to carry familial tendencies, God planned that you would be adopted (Eph. 1:5).

When you received the Lord Jesus and believed in his name, he gave you the sense of finality that is declared by the judge on adoption day: You became the child of a new father – a child of God himself (John 1:12).

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"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

~ Ezekiel 36:26

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Becoming a child of God also means becoming a member of the family of God. Christians are referred to as the “household of faith” or the “family of believers” in Galatians. This family’s patriarch is the Creator of the largest sun in the galaxy and the smallest molecule of DNA; our fellowship is empowered by the Holy Spirit, who unites us across great boundaries of diversity; and our commitment to one another is solidified by the promise that he will keep us until the day of his return.

Jesus redefined our concept of family when he was approached by his mother and brothers in the Gospel of Luke. “While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, ‘Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?’ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother’” (Matt. 12:47-50).

Now, before you think Jesus did not love his mother, remember that one of his last acts on the cross was to secure a place for her care once he had died (John 19:26-27). Rather than diminishing the importance of our loved ones, Jesus is showing each of us that upon giving our lives to him, we are grafted into a family that transcends our family of origin. God has given us this family to link arms with on earth until we raise voices together in praise for eternity.

When I had my second daughter, we were living hours away from family, and my husband was engaged in full-time course work for seminary and working long hours to support our family. After the initial visits from our parents when she was born and the crucial help in those first days, we did not have family to call to come to our aid with our spirited toddler or sleep deprivation. It was our church family who filled the gaps for us. For well over a month, warm meals and gift cards were delivered to us. We had so much help offered, I could not for a second think that we were isolated and alone.



In recent days, my local household of faith has carried the burdens of a wife who has found herself inexplicably abandoned by her husband as well as of parents who have had to bury their son far too early. God’s heart of care and compassion is put on display as brothers and sisters cook meals and offer playdates, mow grass, and deliver groceries. The church has grieved, prayed, and committed to seeing these families through unimaginable pain and heartbreak. As one large body, we feel the pain of a single member aching throughout the whole.

May we praise God together that he chose to bring us into his family, and in doing so, we have inherited more spiritual mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters than we can count. Praise God for the gift of our local church family. It is God’s gift to us that we may never walk alone through the celebrations and tragedies of life. May you be a sister eager to love those in your household of faith and a sister eager to receive God’s precious provision made manifest in the body of Christ.

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*But to all who
did receive
him who
believed in his
name, he gave
the right to
become
children of
God,*

JOHN 1:12