

The Privileges of Adoption

1. If Believers are adopted as children of God, why are Believers considered Abraham's children?

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. (Gal 3:7, NIV)

"Abraham is our father," they answered.

"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did. As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the works of your own father." (John 8:39-41, NIV)

2. In establishing adoption as a legally binding relationship with a new Believer, what does God intend?

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Rom 8:16-17, NIV)

Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says,

"I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises." (Heb 2:11-12, NIV)

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Teacher Notes

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Ask the student: what is Abraham often used as an example of?

Abraham is an example of **genuine** faith.

Both Jesus Christ and the apostle Paul metaphorically use the phrase "children / descendants of Abraham" to represent people with a genuine faith. This sharpened the contrast to Jews, the physical descendants of Abraham, who lacked faith.

Ask the student: what did Abraham do that Jesus is referring to? How is this an example of genuine faith?

Jesus is referring to Abraham's preparation of sacrificing his only son Isaac. God tested Abraham's faith by making him choose between the two greatest loves in his life. Would Abraham love his son more and disobey God? By his decision to obey God, Abraham demonstrated that he loved God above all loves in his life.

Did Abraham sin? No, Abraham did not 1) desire to sacrifice his son, nor 2) carried through with the act. Because God only tests your desire for Him, God does not cause you to sin.

But, as Jesus points out, the Jews were willing to murder Him.

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Ask the student: what do you observe? Can you explain what you see?

Heirs of God / co-heirs with Jesus Christ - this refers to all the promises God made to Abraham about his descendants (blessings including eternal life and land including a place in heaven).

A divine family.