

Heresies of the universal Fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of man

All are God's children only in the sense of our relationship to Him in creation and providence.

Acts 17:25-29

Everyone comes into the world as a child of wrath and a son/daughter of disobedience. Ephesians 2:1-3

effectively called

regenerated

justified

adopted!

Adoption is the judicial act of God in which He bestows on believers in Christ the status of being His sons/daughters and, therefore, members of His family.

John 1:12; Galatians 4:4-6

Adoption is distinct from being born again and justification.

To be born from above is to be made ***spiritually alive*** and given a new nature.

God could do this for us ***without*** adopting us into his family.

Justification ***forgives our sins
and declares us righteous.***

God could do this for us ***without***
adopting us into His family.

A. In the PRESENT the Christian, as a result of adoption:

takes God's Name and is brought into God's family (Ephesians 2:18-19);

relates to other Christians as brothers and sisters (Romans 8:29);

“You were cleansed by the same blood, regenerated by the same Spirit. You are a citizen of the same city, a slave of the same master, a reader of the same Scriptures, a worshipper of the same God. The same presence dwells silently in you as in them. Therefore you are committed to them and they to you. They are your brothers, sisters, your fathers, mothers and children. ...

... Whether you like or dislike them,
you belong to them. You have
responsibilities toward them that must
be discharged in love. As long as you
live on this earth, you are in their debt.
Whether they have done much or little
for you, Christ has done all. He
demands that your indebtedness to
Him to be transferred to your new
family.”

John White

receives the spirit of adoption
(Romans 8:14-17);

is led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14);

receives the Father's protection,
provision and presence (John 17:15;
Philippians 4:19; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 23);

receives a Father's discipline
(Hebrews 12:7-11);

is an heir of all the promises of
God and of everlasting salvation
(1 Peter 1:3-4).

**B. In the FUTURE – life hereafter –
the Christian, as a result of
adoption:**

receives an inheritance as a son or daughter – life in Heaven! Includes the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23; 1 Peter 1:3-4).

Participation in the grace of adoption is conferred by God on all the justified for the sake of His only Son, Jesus Christ. By this act they are numbered with and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God. They have His name put upon them, receive the spirit of adoption, ...

... have access to the throne of grace with boldness, and are enabled to cry, 'Abba, Father'. They are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by God, as by a father. Yet they are never cast off, for they have been sealed for the day of redemption, and so inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 12.

*‘..the apex of redemptive grace and
privilege.’*

John Murray