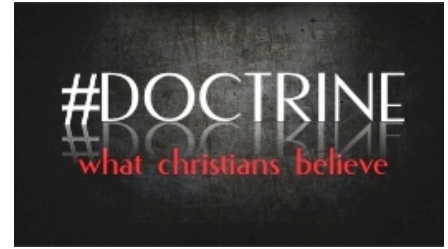




Sermon Discussion Guide




"Adoption"

Galatians 4:1-7

Rev. Ray Cortese, July 19 & 20, 2014

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Galatians 4:1-7. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 When was the last time you had a family reunion? What was good about it and what was hard about it? Have you adopted a child? Do you know someone who is adopted? How were you impacted by the pre-sermon video?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, "What was the sermon about on Sunday?" what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

ADOPTION SECURED

- 3 How would you respond to someone who says, "It doesn't matter what you believe, we are all children of God"?

- 4 How do people become slaves to the law? Discuss the following quote by Michael Bloomberg:

I'm telling you if there is a God, when I get to heaven I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close.

- 5 In your own words, what is the relationship between justification and adoption?
- 6 What was the point of the illustration about Bo Bergdahl and the family who adopted a child from Congo?

ADOPTION EXPERIENCED

- 7 In your own words, what is the difference between *believing* in adoption and *experiencing* adoption? When did the coin drop for you; when did you first *experience* being adopted by God?
- 8 What did John Wesley mean when he said, "Christianity is a religion of sons, not a religion of slaves"?
- 9 How do orphans act differently from sons? How have you acted like a spiritual orphan in your Christian life?
- 10 Our adoption means we have utter security and the assurance that God will get after whatever is broken in us. What is one area of your life where you think the Father wants to change you?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?