

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

March 3, 2018

Born of God

Every member of the human race could be considered a child of God. The apostle Paul acknowledged this when speaking at *“Mar’s Hill,”* saying that we all *“are the offspring of God.”* He made this statement concerning *“all nations of men”* that *“dwell on all the face of the earth.”* Acts 17:24-29. Even the natural lineage of Jesus is traced from son to father through David, Abraham, Adam, and finally to God. Adam, in one sense of the word, was a created a *“son of God.”* Luke 3:38.

Being the descendants of Adam, we are all the created *“offspring”* of God. Yet this does not save any of us. Although created to be the children of God, through Adam’s transgression sin became our master and damnation became our destiny.

Unlike Adam, the children of Israel were not *“created”* to be the children of God. Instead they were *“chosen”* to be his sons and daughters. They were not inherently different than other nations, but God chose them to be his children because of his promise to Abraham. In the Law of Moses these words are spoken to Israel: *“Ye are the children of the LORD your God...”* Deuteronomy 14:1. God *“adopted”* the nation of Israel to be his own children.

Israel’s *“adoption”* does not save them. Paul was so heartbroken over Israel’s lost condition he said, *“I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were*

accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption..." Romans 9:2-4.

Israel had been adopted to be God's children, but they did not have the same heart and nature that He possessed. They were rebellious in heart and sinful in nature, so they never received the promise.

Even Moses saw that these "chosen children" were not like God who chose them. In the song of Moses he said, "*They have corrupted themselves, THEIR SPOT IS NOT THE SPOT OF HIS CHILDREN: they are a perverse and crooked generation. Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not He thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?*" Deuteronomy 32:5-6. Israel was chosen by God, but they did not have his nature. As Moses said, their spot (identifying marks) was not the spot (identifying marks) of God's children!

When Jesus Christ came into the world he was the "*only begotten Son of God.*" John 3: 16-18. He was not created from the dust of the earth; neither was he chosen from among natural men. He was born of God from the womb of Mary. This was not an adoption. This was a birth! The life of his Father filled his entire being. He had his Father's heart and nature and he walked in his Father's love. John speaks of Jesus, saying, "*...and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father...*" John 1:14. Jesus in every way is the Son of God because he was "*born of God.*"

Although Jesus Christ is the only begotten of God from the mother's womb, he is no longer God's ONLY begotten son. The writer of Hebrews describes Jesus as "*the firstbegotten.*" Hebrews 1:6.

This tells us that although Jesus was the first to be born of God, others would also be born of God. The apostle Paul confirms this saying, *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, **that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**”* Romans 8:29. The redeemed are also *“born of God”* and are the *“many brethren.”*

Adam’s race was created to be God’s people, and Israel was chosen to be God’s people. Yet these facts alone do not save anyone. Jesus said *“You must be born again.”* John 3:7. In fact, Jesus said without this new birth you *“cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”* John 3:5. Neither Adam’s race nor Israel’s adoption will mean anything when we stand before God. Only those who are *“born of God”* will abide with God.

The new birth is not a process. It is a birth! Those who have been *“born of the Spirit”* John 3:6 are not becoming the sons of God. They ARE the sons and daughters of God! The apostle John says, *“Beloved, NOW ARE WE THE SONS OF GOD, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be...”* 1 John 3:2. When an infant is born, we may not know what its occupation will be as an adult, but you can know that it is already filled with the life of his (or her) parents. Even so when someone is born of the Spirit of God it may not yet be apparent how God will manifest himself through them in the years to come, but they already have God’s life and nature within. From the moment of the new birth, God is their Father, and they are his sons and daughters. They have received *“a new heart and a new spirit.”* Ezekiel 36:26.

Those who are born of God are neither like Adam nor Israel. They are like Christ. Paul told us

“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. |

Corinthians 15:47-48. God’s children are not sinful because they possess the nature of their Father. |

John 3:9. They are *“born of God!”*