

# *Who Are We In Christ Jesus?*

Tom Stephens  
(Bolds, italics, reds are mine)

## **Looking At Luke 3 And 4:**

Under Rome law, adoption was a common means of appointing an heir. It legally transferred a person from the natural father's authority to the authority of the adoptive father. Paul uses this term to describe the believer's position with God. This is the means by which a person becomes a son of God, and an heir with Christ.

*Example:* When Abraham was without a son, he apparently considered adopting Eliezer his servant as the heir of his household. But remember the Christian is an adopted son of God, and can enjoy an intimacy with his heavenly Father (Gal. 4:6).

My intention is that, though mankind seems to be getting worse and worse, for the very first time ever since creation Jesus Christ came to earth from the Father, lived a righteous and holy life—with all the same temptations of man, died on the Cross, was resurrected and took His own blood before the heavenly Temple. He presented His blood before the Father, Who agreed that the blood was pure and precious. Therefore, every person who commits his life to the Son of God—also will become the son of God.

Today mankind has become so depraved that he runs around the countryside manufacturing little children in the wombs of corrupted females. Because of their lusts after the flesh, they are unaware that these children, in spite of common beliefs, are not likely to ever be what the Lord God intended for His people. Because corrupt sexual practices are running rampant, the babies so conceived often become much like the men who produced them—to extremes!

I wonder what the prophet Eli would think if Samuel had turned his face against The Father in rebellion.

Children conceived in lust grow up doing the very same things their moms and dads did in bringing them into this crazy world. Well, while everyone looks at the children and wonders why so much killing among them, they are learning—not about God the Creator—but about satan the created. He becomes the father of millions of children who are running loose on the planet taking everything they believed belongs to them, and destroying others while they are on the prowl.

What? Did I hear you say these children were brought into the world by His (God's) own will? You may believe God will bless and take care of them, but then, God does not command the wills of the degenerate does He? So now we see (every day of the year) children killing. These children were not born under the auspices of the Saviour, so the destruction of these souls will never end until the day that Jesus says . . . ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

That reminds me of the genealogy written by Luke's genealogy from 3:21 to 3:38:

*“Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth,  
which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.” (Luke 3:38)*

I am pinpointing something here that may be of very special interest to you. While reading this genealogy, I noted something new to me when reading verses 21 and 22 of Luke 3. The genealogy stated clearly in verse 22 the following:

*“And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, **Thou art my beloved Son;** in thee I am well pleased.”* (Luke 22).

Every generation from Adam to Jesus was mentioned in Luke’s genealogy. Which of the names do you think *declared* to be “**sons of God**”?

Answer: The *only names* given as “Sons of God” were the “first Adam—and the “second” Adam. That’s Adam the first created man, and Jesus Christ! No one else named in Luke’s genealogy was declared by God to be His son/Son; That shows me something I never thought about until I was shown this portion of scripture a few years ago—through the ministry of Dave Roberson.

*But NOW...*every born again human is “a son of God!Are God’s saints special—or not? Yes,

<sup>9</sup>*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;* <sup>10</sup>*Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.* (1 Peter 2:9-10 -- KJV)

But how does that relate to thousands of children? Well, weren’t we all born into slavery by sin? Every person who has ever been born on this planet has been/will be born in a corrupt state, unless at some point that person turns his life over to the Savior, Jesus Christ; and here’s a really sweet thing to think about. What if every child on planet earth was drawn by the Holy Spirit to Jesus? Is it possible? I think so, but the requirement may be that someone comes to the service of that young person in prayer and under the anointing of Jesus unto the magnificent experience of the salvation experience. Wow!

### **Apostle Paul Speaks in Ephesians One:**

Remembering the list of benefits of living for Christ as given in Chapter One, declarations of the Father to usward as who we are and who He is through us.

#### **Ephesians Chapter One:**

1. We are saints, the faithful in Jesus Christ; a declaration by the Godhead!
2. "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ".
3. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ".
4. He chose us before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His love.
5. He predestined (made a declaration) as adopted through Jesus by His pleasure and His will.
6. We are the praise of His glory whereas He has made us accepted in the Beloved.
7. In Christ we have redemption in His blood, the forgiveness of sins to the riches of His grace.

**NOTE:** We have redemption ...(Vs. 7)

Means "to send off or away." In Scripture this means separating the sinner from his sin. God accomplishes forgiveness by transferring our sin to Christ on the cross and judging it there. When someone receives Christ, he is forgiven by means of this transfer. **An example:** When Cain was discouraged by his failure to be accepted by God, he was invited to make a sin offering (a "type" of Calvary) and therefore resolve the problem of his sin (Gen 4:6,7). In applying this to today, when we are forgiven, we also ought to be forgiving in our attitude toward others (Matt. 6:14,15).

8. He has abounded to us all wisdom and prudence. Prudence - sound judgment; calm, not rash.
9. Having the mystery of His will revealed to us according to His good pleasure.
10. In the dispensation of the fullness of times, all things should be united in Christ Jesus forever.
11. We are heirs in Him; Predestined in Him as declared to be righteous.
12. We are the praise of His glory.
13. We are Christ's through the gospel, and we were sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise.
14. He is the earnest of our inheritance till the redemption of the purchased at the resurrection.
15. We own agape love and faith in Christ.
16. We are interceded for by our leaders that....
17. The Father may give unto us the spirit of wisdom and revelation of knowledge of Him.
18. That we receive abundant understanding enlightenment; knowing our calling; inheritance.
19. And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward (in) us.
20. Christ raised from the dead by the Father, and sat Him on His right hand in heavenly places.
21. Above all principalities, powers, might, dominion and every name, now and forever.
22. He hath put all things under His feet; He is the head of all things for benefit of His Church.
23. Which is His body, the fullness of Him who completes all things.

C. "...according to the pleasure of His good will,..." It Was Due...

1. Not to anything good in ourselves, but solely upon His kindness, and love for us. 2. The only human responsibility in salvation is shown in verses 12 and 13.

D. Thus far we have learned:

1. He has called us to be His saints (v. 1). Remember: US; WE are Jewish believers, or the first.
2. He called *us* to be faithful in Christ Jesus (vs. 1).
3. Give to us Grace and Peace "...from God *our* Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ"(vs. 2).
4. God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ is BLESS-ED (v. 3).
5. Blessed us *with all spiritual blessings* in Heavenly *places* in Himself (v. 3).
6. Chosen us to be in Him from the very foundations of the world (v. 4).
7. That we should be (considered us to be) holy and without blame before Him in love (vs 4).
8. Predestinated/adopted us..as children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will
9. He has accepted us in the beloved ("...to the praise of the glory of his grace") (v. 6).
10. Redeemed us by *His own precious blood* according to the riches of His grace (v. 7).
11. "*He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence*" (v. 8).
12. "Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure (v.9).

13. “That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he *might gather together in one\** all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on the earth; *even* in Him: (v. 10). \*meaning the entire family of God from Israel to the poorest in our mainline churches!

14. “In whom also we hath obtained an inheritance, being predestinated (predetermined; considered) according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will” (v. 11).

15. “That we should be to the praise of his glory, *who first trusted in Christ*” (v.12).

16. “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after that ye believed, ye *were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise*” (v. 13).

17. “Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory” (v. 14).

18. “

**CONCLUSION:** To the magnificance of His glory through the time the Lord returns with His angels and ten thousands and thousands and thousands, and tens of thousands of His Bride, we will have our inheritance IN HIM.

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