

Becoming God's Children — John 1:10-18

Yet to all who did receive him,
to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God.
John 1:12 NIV

In this Advent season when the whole world commemorates the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Savior, what a propitious occasion to remember how privileged we are to be adopted by God, who gave us the right and privilege to be called God's children.

To consider what it means to be children of God, it is not relevant to talk about skin color, origin, blood, race, or nationality. It is only necessary to believe, which leads to acceptance that generates a change of mentality that is reflected in our external behaviors and actions.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
so that everyone who believes in Him
will not perish, but have eternal life.
John 3:16 NASB

I recently saw a video that caught my attention as a good story to share with you. It was about a young couple who dreamed of becoming foster parents when they got married and finally adopted when the time was right. Due to their young age, they were recommended to be surrogate parents of newborns or toddlers.

They became surrogate parents of a little boy for several months and fell in love with him. Then they realized that the little one had an older brother who was 10 years old. The couple immediately realized that they did not want to separate these two brothers and began the process of adopting them. The process would take some time, but they were determined to take the plunge. The day came when they had to appear in court for the adoption hearing. During the proceedings, the older boy spoke to the judge:

This couple really love us, and we love them. Our whole family is the best thing we ever had. I am glad to have these people in my life. I am glad to be their son. They are the best thing I ever had. If I could wish for anything in the world, I would wish I could just love these people for the rest of my life.¹

Everyone in the courtroom was in tears at this moment.

The judge, after reviewing the documentation of the social workers and hearing the testimony of the older boy, approved the adoption and made the couple and the two children a legal family.

What powerful words from this child—practically a confession of faith that recognized and accepted this couple as his parents. Confessing our love for Christ and receiving him as our Lord and Savior grants us the wonderful privilege of becoming children of God, as this boy did with his adoptive parents. The gratifications of being a child of God are endless. As God's children, we become part of God's family, assured a home in heaven and given the right to be called children of God.

For you have not received a spirit of slavery
leading to fear again, but you have received
a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters
by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"
Romans 8:15 NASB

—Andrew Bodden, AndrewBodden@mcc.org

1. ["She Was His Foster Mom for Years, Then He Told This to the Judge During the Adoption Hearing."](#) Facts Verse, August 11, 2019



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Resources for this session

- Kenneth Bailey, [“A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus.”](#)
- Ken E. Bailey, [“The Manger and the Inn: A Middle Eastern View of the Birth Story of Jesus.”](#) December 21, 2006. For permission to reprint this article, email info@pres-outlook.org.