

Adoption Is Not Automatic

If you can open the heart of God, what do you think will you find inside? I believe you will see His strong desire to be a Father to you. I learned this truth in Jeremiah 3:19, "Then I (God) said, 'How I would set you among My sons And give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful inheritance of the nations!' And I said, 'You shall call Me, My Father, and not turn away from following Me.'"

God sent His Son to accomplish and complete this desire. As Jesus paid the penalty of our sins, He invites us to accept our adoption to be His children. But we must realize though that adoption is not automatic. Knowing that love cannot be imposed, God gave us the freedom to either accept or reject Him. To those who agree to be His child, He makes plans to "give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful inheritance of the nations." To those who do not, He patiently and lovingly waits until He can do the same. But if they never make a decision in His favor, He lets them be and respects their decision.

I have often wondered why people would want to pursue other gods when all other gods act as masters demanding their followers to serve them. On the other hand, God wants to be a Father, whose heart's desire is to bless His children. But as a good parent, God must first discipline His children before He blesses them because He knows that if He does not, His blessing will only become a curse to them.

Of all the FATHERS we should honor today, we should honor God the most. And we can honor Him by fearing and obeying Him because this will lead us to the blessing He has prepared for each of us. In addition, I believe we should honor Him by imitating His ways so that we, in turn, can raise God-fearing and obedient children.