

Devotion – Day 3 – Adoption – Life Week 2023

Bible reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Adopting and/or fostering a child is REALLY hard. The process, yes, is very challenging, frustrating, time-consuming, and emotional. But then welcoming into a family a child who might be broken physically, emotionally, spiritually, and psychologically requires yet even more patience, love, and forgiveness. The child might be rebellious, manipulative, defiant, jealous, and resistant. They may not be as tolerant, grateful, and obedient as one might expect. They have been granted a “new life,” after all. And all the while, the parents pour out yet even more patience, love, and forgiveness because they have spared no cost or effort to adopt that child—even when it might not seem to make much sense to the rest of the world. That kind of outlandish sacrificial love seldom makes sense to outsiders, especially in the face of such an unloving response by the adoptee.

So how does it feel to be adopted? Even if you grew up in a home with two parents (where mother didn't work outside the home, of course), a bevy of perfectly behaved children, and a white picket fence around a perfectly manicured lawn, you have been adopted by THE perfect parent. Your Father spared no cost or effort to adopt you—in spite of the way that you treat Him. Paul tells us in the fourth chapter of his letter to the Galatians (verses 4-7):

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”

We give God thanks for those of you whom He has called to open your homes to children through adoption and fostering, especially when that has been the alternative to an abortion decision. Adoption and/or fostering a child is REALLY hard. You know this. Our heavenly Father knows this.

Prayer: Abba! Father! We give You thanks and praise for the new life that You give us as Your adopted children. Amen.