

Summary

This sermon explores what it means to be a 'child of God' from a theological perspective, focusing on the concept of adoption into God's family. The pastor explains that when someone becomes a Christian, they receive a new nature (regeneration), new standing (justification), and a new position (adoption) in God's family. He emphasizes that God has no grandchildren - only children - meaning each person must personally accept Jesus Christ rather than relying on their family's faith. The message addresses how believers can live as children of God by stopping hatred toward their earthly family and abandoning a slave mentality in favor of understanding their true identity as beloved, chosen children of their heavenly Father.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts, ready to learn what it means to be Your children. We ask that You would speak to each person here according to their specific needs. Help us to set aside any distractions, hurts, or preconceived notions, and give us ears to hear what You want us to receive from our time together. Holy Spirit, guide our discussion and reveal truth to us in ways that transform our hearts and minds. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you discovered you were related to someone you didn't expect, or tell us about an interesting family connection or story from your family history.

Key Verses

1. Romans 8:15-16
2. Romans 9:8
3. John 1:12-13
4. Galatians 4:4-5
5. Romans 8:17
6. Ephesians 2:18
7. Romans 8:28-29
8. 1 John 3:1

Questions

1. What does it mean that 'God has no grandchildren, only children'? How does this challenge the idea that family faith can be inherited?
2. The pastor mentioned that some people get excited about their family history while others see broken branches. How has your family background affected your view of being part of God's family?
3. What are the practical differences between living with a 'slave mentality' versus living as a 'child of God'?

4. How does understanding that you have 'total access to the Father' change the way you approach prayer and your relationship with God?
5. The sermon suggests we should 'stop hating the family God gave us.' What are some healthy ways to deal with family hurt while still honoring this principle?
6. What does it mean to be 'conformed to the image of His son' rather than trying to avoid becoming like our earthly family members?
7. How does knowing you have an eternal inheritance in heaven impact the way you view temporary earthly possessions and struggles?
8. The pastor shared about judging someone by their appearance on the airplane. How can we better see people through God's eyes rather than making assumptions based on outward appearances?

Life Application

This week, practice living as a child of God by choosing one specific area where you've been thinking like a slave (fear, shame, striving for acceptance) and instead declare your identity as God's beloved child. Each morning, remind yourself: 'I am a child of God by adoption. I am chosen, loved, and secure.' When you catch yourself falling into old patterns of fear or shame, return to this truth and approach your heavenly Father with the confidence of a beloved child.

Key Takeaways

1. God has no grandchildren, only children - each person must personally accept Jesus Christ as their Savior
2. Being a child of God means you are legally adopted into God's family with full rights and inheritance
3. You have total access to your heavenly Father at any time, unlike earthly relationships that may have barriers
4. To live as God's child, you must stop hating your earthly family and stop thinking like a slave
5. Your identity should be rooted in whose you are (God's child) rather than who you are in worldly terms

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for adopting us into Your family and making us Your beloved children. Help us to walk in the freedom and confidence that comes from knowing we are chosen, loved, and secure in You. For those who struggle with family hurt, give them grace to release that pain to You and find healing in their identity as Your children. For those who have been living with a slave mentality, break those chains and help them embrace their position as Your sons and daughters. May we live each day knowing we have total access to You and an eternal inheritance waiting for us. Transform our hearts to look more like Jesus, and use us to draw others into Your family. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.