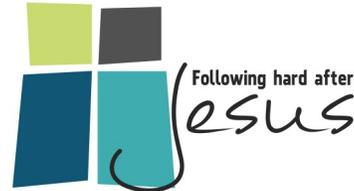


# The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

**Sermon Series:** It Is Finished  
**Title:** Family Ties  
**Speaker:** Matt Ewert  
**Text:** Romans 8:12-17  
**Date:** March 26, 2017



## Discussion

*Children fully loved and accepted by our Father, made part of his forever family. That's adoption. As a result we have nothing to earn because we're already fully loved, approved and valued by our Father. Therefore, we can love and serve all people, even our enemies, with no strings attached. This is adoption.*  
—Caesar Kalinowski

- Do you know of someone who has adopted a child (or maybe you have)? Have you ever imagined what kind of life that child would have had if they hadn't been adopted? Talk about the difference between the life that is possible for them having been adopted, versus what you imagine their life might have otherwise been like.
- Describe the difference between a god who would rule over people as a master rules over his slaves, and one who rules as a perfect Father. Discuss the distinction Paul makes between slavery and adoption in Galatians 4:1-7 and Romans 8:12-17.

*"Every Christian may apply to himself the declaration of God: 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!'" As God's children, we not only have the privilege of participating in his mission to redeem and renew creation, but we also do so in the strength, knowledge, and all-powerful word of our Father's delight.*  
—Dr. C.F.W. Walther

- Read Zephaniah 3:14-17. What images contained in this description of what God does for a restored people speaks most deeply to you?
- Think about children you know who are growing up in an environment in which they are demonstrably loved by and secure in their relationship with their mom/dad, versus children you know who don't share that kind of experience with a parent. Are there things you observe to be true of children who know they are loved and in secure relationship with their parent(s)?

**Your Next Step:** If you more fully understood and embraced the wonderful truth about your adoption by God, and all the implications of that, how might your life look different than it does today? What decisions or actions could you take in order to step into that experience of life?