



Sermon Discussion Guide

A Good Confession

Adoption

Warm-Up Questions:

- What difference does having a good father make in a child's life? What are some of the issues that might arise from bad fatherhood?

Read Romans 8:14-17

I. Adoption: The Facts (Rom. 8:14)

A. It's Supernatural (Jn. 1:12)

- What would you say to someone who says "we are all God's children"?

B. It's Secured (Gal. 4:4-5)

- If you were to die today and stand before God, and he says, "why should I let you in to my heaven," what would you say?
- The confession teaches that we are adopted not only in Jesus but **for** him. We are the treasure and reward that he died for. How does it make you feel to know that you are his **reward**?

C. Its Evidence (Eph. 5:1)

- What are some ways God might be calling you to imitate his adoptive love?

II. Adoption: The Benefits (Rom. 8:15-17a)

A. Intimacy (Rom. 8:15b)

- Read Rom. 8:15b, Eph. 3:12, Heb. 4:16. Gal. 4:6. What difference might truly believing that God is a loving Father make for your relationship with him?

B. Fathering (Heb. 12:5b, 6a)

- Where have you experienced the fatherly discipline of God in your life?

C. Security (Rom. 8:15-16)

- What comfort does Rom. 8:15-16 provide if we are struggling with believing we are God's children (hint: look at the legal language)? (See also Eph. 1:3, 4:30)

D. Status (Rom. 8:17)

- What new status do we have as God's children? (See also 1 Pet 1:3-4)

Going Deeper:

Read and discuss chapter 12 of The Westminster Confession and questions 34 and 36 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, along with some of the Scripture proofs. Then, as a group:

- Spend time summarizing/re-wording the question and answer
- Discuss how the Scripture proofs support the answer

Action:

- Spend time this week praying for opportunities to imitate God's adoptive love to those who cross your path.

