

Becoming Who You Are

Long Beach Alliance Church • November 25th, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

~Romans 6:22 (NASB)

1) Adoption Into The Family Of God

- A) When God saves a person, through faith in Jesus Christ, they are adopted into God's family (Romans 8:15). This radical change is brilliantly illustrated by first-century Roman adoption in the ancient world. Roman adoption:
- Removed the adoptee from his/her previous family. The adopted was cut-off from their previous family forever, no further relationship existed legally or otherwise.
 - Resulted in receiving a new family name. You became a 100% member of your new family. No distinctions existed between naturally born children and adopted children. This included your full rights to the family inheritance.
 - Cancelled all the debts of the adopted. All previous agreements/relationships were erased, your relationship with your new father held exclusively significance.
 - Placed all decisions in your life under the authority of your father. This included all decisions in life and even death.
 - Prohibited disowning an adopted child. Adoption resulted in a secure relationship, which could not be dissolved.

2) Dead To The Old Man, Life To The New Man

- A) Prior to salvation, all people are viewed as married to "sin and death" through a marriage to "the Law" (7:2). Salvation frees us from the "old husband" and "marries" one to Jesus Christ (7:2-6).

- B) But like moving from singlehood to marriage, or from a previous marriage to a new marriage, we are “becoming who we are” as we explore the new relationship (7:5-6).
- C) On the one hand, you are positionally “married,” completely positionally secure. On the other hand, you are learning how to be married as you go. In other words, you are “learning to become who you already are.”

3) The Process Of The Holy Spirit Sanctifying God’s Saints

- A) As noted last week, the Holy Spirit is provided by God to everyone who has a relationship with Jesus Christ (cf. John 14:16-18, 26). It is this relationship of the Holy Spirit within the lives of Christ’s followers which makes them “holy ones,” or “saints” in the Bible (cf. Romans 8:26-27).
- B) But most of us don’t feel the least little bit like saints, do we?! Most of feel like frauds, like somehow God has made some sort of mistake, and once we are found out, we will be kicked out of our “most favored position,” and returned to our rightful place as “married to sin” and “orphans.”
- C) If we are supposed to be “holy ones” and the Holy Spirit which raised Jesus Christ from the dead is alive in us (8:11), shouldn’t we see MORE victory, MORE success, MORE progress, and MORE saint-like-lookin’-stuff in our lives?!
- D) The simple answer is NO.
- E) While we are positionally secure in God’s grace, married to Christ and adopted into God’s family, we are still very much “becoming who we are.” We are already, and still not yet.
- F) By Holy Spirit power, we are progressively “sanctified” (made more holy, 8:19-22). RECOGNIZE this process! Your perfection is not based on you, it is based on Jesus!
- G) While we are secure in God’s grace, God continues to make you like Christ (more holy). ENGAGE this process! As Scripture calls all of us, do not grow tired in following Jesus Christ, be diligent and actively grow (Hebrews 12:1-3).