

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are Adopted

May 10, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction.**
 - o God loves to adopt people!
 - o When you receive Christ, you're adopted into God's family.
 - o Have you let Jesus adopt you? When did you join God's family? Share your story briefly.
- **Because you've been adopted into God's family through the epic work of Jesus: You can be led by the Spirit of God.**
- **Read Romans 8:12-14 and Exodus 15:13.**
 - o Many people live the Christian life this way: You accept Jesus and then as you grow you tell Jesus you've got everything covered and try to do things in your own strength. (Performance-based living) You try to protect your image and hide the things you're struggling with in your life.
 - o Pastor Derwin said, *"The longer you don't let anyone know you're messed up, the longer you stay messed up."* Discuss a time when this applied to you.
 - o *"You are saved by grace, not by works!"* Discuss this statement as it relates to the illustration about trying to protect your image by holding the basketballs under the water.
 - o *You can be led by Spirit, or you can retreat and be led by your flesh. You develop coping mechanisms to run to, instead of running to Jesus.* Discuss these statements and share a few of your coping mechanisms.
- **Read Colossians 3:1-5b**
 - o Have a group member describe the sermon illustration Pastor Derwin did with the golf club. Discuss what impacted you about the illustration.
 - o Paul tells you to set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. To be led by the Spirit, you need to set your mind on things above. What things on earth often distract you from setting your mind on things above?
 - o Read and discuss our first value at TC: *A High and Lofty View of God*. How does this value help you focus on things above?
 - o Remember: *The scene of the crime is your mind*. What does it mean to preach the gospel to yourself every day?
- **Because you've been adopted into God's family through the epic work of Jesus: You don't have to live in fear because you can cry out to your Papa.**
- **Read Romans 8:15.**
 - o Ask God to fill in the spaces where there is brokenness in your life.
 - o Pastor Derwin said, *"The weaker I become, the stronger I become because I'm relying upon Him."* Discuss this statement.
 - o Read 1 John 4:18.
 - o What/who do you fear? What does 1 John 4 say about your fear?
 - o Pastor Derwin shared an illustration of a baby and a teenager. What impacted you about the illustration?
 - o Our Father in Heaven accepts you exactly as you are...baggage and all. *"God's love and grace is not determined on your inadequacies. It's determined on the adequacies of Jesus."* Discuss this statement.
- **Because you've been adopted into God's family through the epic work of Jesus: You are a co-heir of the Kingdom with Jesus.**
- **Read Romans 8:16-17.**
 - o As God's child, you share in His glory and His sufferings. At some point, everyone will experience deep suffering. What if He allowed the suffering you're going through so He can purify you and you can see Him clearly? Discuss this statement.

- **Because you've been adopted into God's family through the epic work of Jesus: Let suffering transform you into a mature child of the kingdom of God.**
- **Read Romans 5:3-5.**
 - o Everyone will suffer at some point in life. God knows your situation and He wants you to know Him in the midst of your situation. Instead of asking God to get you out of suffering, ask God to develop you through suffering. Take a few minutes to pray for your group members who are currently suffering.
 - o Pastor Derwin said, "*Maturity isn't what you know in your head (knowledge), it's living by faith daily and relying on Jesus to work in and through you.*" What does it mean to be mature?
 - o Let God develop and mold you into a mature child of the King! *God's love for you is based on what Christ has done, not on what you do.* Discuss this statement.
 - o Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejto7en2mKU&feature=youtu.be>
 - o What stood out to you during the video?
 - o You are a beloved son or daughter of the King! Have you let God adopt you and become your Father?
- **Soul-tattoo: Write a letter to yourself explaining how if this is true, it can transform your life.**
 - o Did you write yourself a letter yet?
 - o Challenge everyone in the group to write a letter this week.
- **Close in prayer.**