

“1 Peter: Dunked in the Spirit”

1 Peter 3:18-22 – 4:7-11

December 4, 2024

INTRO: Adoption – Last Name

Imagine for a moment a child whose life is completely changed, not by their own decision, but by the choices and actions of others. This child, born into circumstances far beyond their control, has no say in where they will live or who will raise them. Yet, in an instant, everything they knew is flipped upside down.

This child, taken into a new home, becomes part of a family. The child receives a new last name—one that is shared by those who have chosen to welcome them in, a name that signifies belonging. But this name is not what makes them part of the family. It is not just a label or a title. It is the symbol of a profound transformation, a moment when a new identity is formed, and a new story begins.

This adoption wasn't about the child choosing to be part of something new. The decision was made for them. But the act of giving them a new name? That was the outward representation of an inward change—a new life, a new future, a new place to belong.

Today, as we reflect on the meaning of adoption, we'll consider how God, too, has adopted us, not because we earned it or made the decision ourselves, but because He chose us. And like the new name that marked the child's transformation, our adoption into God's family speaks of the change He has made in us, a change that is far deeper than any outward sign could show.

John 3:1-8 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit...⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **[1 Peter 3:18-22]** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

The Water Does What?

- Faith Saves You

Eph 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:3-5 *For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,*

Now, here's one last important text they're raising. In fact, this is where you begin, Acts 2:38: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." It looks like this:

Condition number one: be baptized.

Condition number two: forgiveness will be given to you.

I've been arguing, because I think so many texts teach it, that, no, repentance and faith as one piece are what obtains forgiveness, not the act of baptism. Now, you might respond, "You disagree with this text, Piper? Who do you think you are?" I think that text should be read something like this. I remember seeing this years ago and then finding it in other places. Suppose, Tony, that you want to go from Phoenix to LA on a train, and it's about to leave. I say to you, "Grab your hat and run, or you'll miss the train." Now, I just gave you two commands like Peter gave two commands: repent and be baptized. But only one of them is a cause of getting to the train on time — namely, running. I said, "Run," but I also said, "Grab your hat." Grabbing your hat is an accompanying act, not a causative one. It may be very important now; there may be all kinds of reasons why you should have a hat. "Why did you tell him to grab a hat?" Well, I've got my reasons, all kinds of reasons. But grabbing the hat does not help you in the least get on the train on time. **John Piper** "Why is Baptism Important?"

- Visual Representation

Gal 3:23-27 *Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

- All Christians are Called to Baptism

Matt 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

- * If faith saves me, then do I have to take baptism seriously? Am I saved if I never get baptized?

The Justified Have GIFTS

1 Pet 4:7-11 *The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Spiritual Gifts: Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Distinguishing between Spirits, Speaking in Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Teaching, Helping, and Administrating.

1 Cor 14:12 *So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.*

1 Cor 13:1-3 *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*