

WHEN WAS/IS MAN ADOPTED BY CHRIST?

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Concerning 'Adoption' Theology, let's examine a few points which MAY make this subject more clear to us all.

Often the claim is made that not "all" humans were adopted by Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world. Those who take this position say that those who are not presently saved are 'lost' unless and until they 'accept' Jesus as their personal savior. In other words they change their mind (repent) and come to belief and this is what saves them. Up until this point they were NOT saved but lost.

For the sake of this discussion, let's assume that this is true; that this is the way it really is for humans in order to be saved. With this in mind, let's go back and ask ourselves the question, "IF God did NOT adopt them and include them in the life of God before the foundation of the world and NOW they are accepting Jesus as savior, then WHEN DID or DOES He adopt them and include them in the life of God? And, what if they don't now or later 'accept' Jesus as their savior is their lack of acceptance to mean that they were NEVER intended by God to be Adopted, Included, Redeemed, or Saved in the first place? And what if they later change their mind and decide to accept Jesus WHEN and HOW does their adoption occur? In practical fact, is humanity then responsible for their personal Adoption, Inclusion, Redemption, Reconciliation, and Salvation and does this by their CHOICE dictate what God did ORIGINALLY? Do we begin to see a problem with all of this?

Without going into the discussion of objectivity (what actually is) and subjectivity (what a person thinks is) at this point, let's look at another facet which may be worthy of consideration.

I think this all boils down to terminology and a definition of terms. For those who feel that a person "gets saved" when he accepts Jesus as personal savior, and that the person is "lost" until he accepts Jesus, let's look at it from this point. A better way of phrasing it, I feel, would be to say that this person "COMES TO BELIEF IN JESUS". They come to believe what was done FOR them and TO them in Jesus from before the foundation of the world. In their mind they call it being saved, becoming saved, getting saved, etc, and Trinitarian Theologians would call it seeing, understanding, believing, and now 'EXPERIENCING' the salvation and adoption that was there all along in Jesus from the foundation of the world. For the individual the REALITY is the same. They are saved and now they know it. Now they can live their life knowing it. They can EXPERIENCE it—FOREVER.

When you think about it God's Adopting, Including, Redeeming, Reconciling, and Saving the whole of Humanity from the foundation of the world is in reality the ONLY WAY THAT HE COULD HAVE DONE IT thereby being fair to all. Therefore, objectively, it is so. It is the Truth. It is the way it is.

This way it allows God "not to be a respecter of persons"; it allows God "not to be willing for any to perish but to come to repentance" (belief); everything needed to be done in Christ occurred once and for all from the start; all humans are on the same footing ; no other HUMAN FACTOR of all time enters in except the factor of BELIEF; the playing field is leveled; and spiritually God does not do for one that He does not do for another. There is no respect of persons with God. No partiality. We humans are all God's children; loved, accepted, wanted, provided for, provisioned for, adopted, included, and saved by a loving Father who designed this plan of His originally for us all to be with Him forever because HE LOVES US !!! And He likes us too.

With THIS perspective EVERYTHING for the Salvation of Humanity rests squarely on the shoulders of Jesus Christ. Man has no part in his own personal salvation. He doesn't acquire it. He doesn't maintain it. He doesn't loose it. The reason being that it is ALL done IN, THROUGH, AND BY JESUS CHRIST from the beginning. In truth, Jesus doesn't NEED man to help him out in the adoption and salvation process at all. None. NADA. Zip. Zero. The reason being that it was all done in Jesus before man was ever created in the first place.

So, what does this picture mean for man? It means that man has the freedom to choose to believe it or not. This is the ONLY thing man CAN do. But, the Good News is, that is ENOUGH!!! And YOU get to believe it too.