

Senior Pastor

By Brandon Lemons, Senior Pastor

‘God Loves Adoption’... Really?!

“God loves _____.” Whatever word or phrase you use to fill in the blank, I bet someone has created a t-shirt or website proclaiming God’s love for that particular cause, group, or idea. The question is: does God really love what we say He loves? It’s common to try to gain support for a cherished cause by claiming God loves it, but if there is no biblical evidence that God truly loves _____, we’re better off never making the claim in the first place.

As the *Forever Families 5K* and associated events approach, you’ve probably seen t-shirts, buttons, and posters that say “God Loves Adoption (and so does Friedens church).” It is true that Friedens families have an impressive heritage of adoption



and foster care. But what does the Bible say about God’s perspective on adoption?

Adoption in the Bible

God’s heart for the oppressed and downtrodden, including orphans, is a consistent theme throughout Scripture. Consider the following examples:

“[God] defends the cause of the fatherless...” (Deuteronomy 10:18)

“A father to the fatherless...is God in his holy dwelling.” (Psalm 68:5)

“Defend the orphan.” (Isaiah 1:17)

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans...” (James 1:27)

So God’s love for the orphan is clear throughout the Bible, and adoption is a great way to care for orphans. Yet the biblical picture of adoption goes much deeper.

Are You a Christian?

If you are a Christian, you have been adopted. No one is naturally born into God’s family. From birth until we turn to Christ, we are alienated from God (Colossians 1:21) and are “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3 NASB). Only through faith in Christ can we “become children of God” (John 1:12) through adoption into God’s family.

“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.” (Ephesians 1:5 NLT)

Do you hear God’s joy in adopting us? Do you hear God’s love for adoption? God longs to adopt us as His children, and through Jesus Christ, He has done everything necessary to prepare the way for our adoption! One of the beautiful realities when people adopt children who are in need of a “forever family” (adoptive family) is that it is a powerful illustration of God’s love for us and a constant reminder of His act of adopting us into His “forever family.”

So, does God love adoption? Without a doubt. And I can tell you that I love adoption, too, and not just because Shelly and I will soon be bringing home our son through adoption. I love adoption even more because God has adopted me and so many others into His family through Jesus Christ.



The Friedens families pictured above, along with a number of families who were unavailable for this photo, have all been personally involved in adoption and/or foster care.