

# Adoption – Rights and Privileges of Maturity

## [Ephesians 1:5](#)

υιοθεσία adoption of sons

υἱος adult sons

θέσις to place – appoint

I. HISTORICAL – The Bible is to be interpreted in the time in which it was written. In Paul's Day it was a Roman custom that a child was placed under teachers during childhood. At age 14 he graduated from a period of discipline and was recognized as an adult member of the Family. The ceremony was called: UIOTHESIA (υιοθεσία) which we have here in [Ephesians 1:5](#). The family would be called in for the ceremony – the child, up to this point, wore a uniform called a TOGA. The father would come in with a robe over his arm (purple and white) and a ring in his hand. The Robe was called a TOGA VIRILIS (it was a loose outer garment of the citizens of Ancient Rome). The American College Dictionary describes it: A Toga Virilis-“the manly toga assumed by Roman youths at the age of 14.” The Father would then say: “I your father now recognize you as an adult member of this family.” He would shake his hand (arm) and place the robe on him. He was then considered an adult. As an adult he could:

1. go into business
2. manage estates
3. get married
4. enter politics
5. serve in the military

He was free to function as an adult citizen in the Roman world. Paul takes this custom to describe spiritual adoption which is not taking someone outside the family and putting him in the family – but is taking someone in the family and recognizing him as having all rights and privileges of an adult SON.

# Adoption – Rights and Privileges of Maturity (Continued)

## SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

- II. ETIMOLOGY – a word study. The word is υἱοθεσία HUIOTHESIA. This word relates to FREEDOM. The young man is set free. The first part of the word is HUIOS – υἱός adult son. The second part of the word is TITHEMI – which means to appoint, to place or to put. From a spiritual standpoint, the moment we are saved we are SET FREE! We are to move from: BREPHOS- βρέφος nursing baby (Luke 1:41, 44; embryo Luke 2:12, 16), a tiny baby to a mature adult son – positionally, Galatians 4:5; Rom. 8:15. The word here is huioi – υἱοί – an adult son. No matter how you fail you are a υἱός.
- III. ADOPTION – HOW? [Ephesians 1:4 & 5](#) present the answer.
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit at conversion
  - [1 Corinthians 12:13](#) tithemi – τιθεμι the placing of adoption.
- IV. ADOPTION – WHEN? AT SALVATION.
- [John 3:3, 7](#); John 1:12; Gal. 3:26; Titus 3:5
- V. ADOPTION – RESULTS Gal. 4:5; Rom. 8:15 The believer is to take advantage of all rights and privileges of his freedom as a Spiritually adult son. Having been in bondage but now set free from the prison house of sin – the believer now has a NEW relationship to the one who made that freedom possible. The attitude makes all the difference.
- VI. ADOPTION – FUTURE Rom. 8:23 The future is Ultimate Sanctification which means:
- A Resurrection Body.
  - No more sinful nature
  - Living with the Lord Jesus forever.