

Adopted for Mission: Living as God's Missional Family

Sep 30, 2026

Summary

Adopted to Share: The Gospel-Shaped Life of a Missionary Family

Scripture References

Primary text

- Romans 8:15
- John 20
- Romans 12:3

Other references

- John 21
- Romans 10:14-15
- Luke 9:23
- Acts 2
- John 17

Overview

We are not merely released from slavery to sin—God liberates us and adopts us into His family so that we can share His life and His message. Our identity as sons and daughters drives our mission: just as the Father sent Jesus, Jesus now sends us. Pride is the great enemy that keeps a church from this task, so the daily posture of a missionary family is humble self-denial, taking up the cross, and following Christ together.

Main Points

Adopted to Share (Romans 8:15)

- Salvation is more than forgiveness; it is adoption that lets us cry, “Abba, Father.”
- The visible expression of that family on earth is the Church— “big C” universal, expressed in every local gathering.
- Like children who begin to resemble their new parents, believers should increasingly display the traits of their Father.

The Family Business: Sent as Jesus Was Sent (John 20; Romans 10:14-15)

- Jesus greets the disciples with “Peace be with you” (shalom—complete wholeness) and immediately links it to mission: “As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.”
- Mission has no expiration date; life and breath remain so we can speak of Christ.
- Evangelism is not an extracurricular reserved for elite Christians; it is the normal work of every adopted child.
- **Illustration:** a sower “indiscriminately broadcast the seed,” showing that our task is faithfulness, not outcome control.

The Enemy of Mission: Pride (Romans 12:3)

- Pride either looks down on sinners (“they're too hardened”) or looks up at self (“my reputation/time/knowledge matters more”).
- Corporate pride anchors a congregation to nostalgia or self-protection instead of gospel advancement.
- Sober judgment, rooted in the gospel, reminds us of our shared history: every member was once dead in sin and saved only by grace.

The Posture of a Missionary Family: Deny, Die, Follow (Luke 9:23)

- “Deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me” dismantles pride and reshapes life around Jesus.
- The first three Beatitudes (poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness) echo this same pattern of dependency and courage.
- All gifts—skills, influence, jobs—are tools to lay at Christ's feet for kingdom use.

Evaluating Ourselves in Light of Christ

- Scripture functions as a mirror: “here's what you are, here's what Christ is,” urging continual conformity.
- Questions for honest assessment:
 - If I lived overseas as a missionary, what would I change about today's schedule?
 - Do I truly know who I am in Christ before trying to “win” anyone else?
- A church that lives as true family becomes both strange and irresistibly attractive to the watching world.

Key Truths

- Adoption gives believers both identity (“child of God”) and assignment (“sent ones”).

- Whatever we use to “win” people is what we actually win them to—therefore we must lead with Christ Himself.
- Pride—personal or congregational—silences gospel witness more than lack of skill or knowledge.
- Daily cross-bearing is the Spirit's cure for pride and the pathway to effective mission.
- The gathered church should preview heaven: diverse people united by Jesus' blood, displaying family love that invites questions.

Response

- Remember your adoption; speak to God as “Abba, Father” throughout the day.
- Slay pride by rehearsing the gospel and confessing specific self-protective attitudes.
- Treat every skill, position, and opportunity as kingdom equipment—offer it back to Jesus.
- Start one conversation this week that naturally weaves in what you love about Christ.
- View your local setting through missionary eyes: pray for open doors, listen, and share.

Closing

God chose any method He wished to publicize His glory—and He chose us. The mission lasts “until they take you out toes up,” so every breath is a chance to make Him known.

“Whatever you win them with is what you win them to.”

Stay humble, stay sent, stay family.

Prayer

Father, thank You for freeing us from slavery to sin and adopting us as Your children. Shape our hearts by Your Word, silence pride, and empower us to speak the gospel wherever You send us. Strengthen those who are sick or caring for loved ones, guide their doctors, and use every circumstance to display Your glory. Make our church a light on a hill that draws many to Your Son. In Jesus' name, Amen.