



2014 Adoption & Foster Guide

PART 2

Many reasons why Christians should embrace adoption

Despite efforts at awareness of such a miracle of life, sometimes people still don't embrace adoption. Sadly, many of those ideas emanate from Christians who are pro-life.

Recently another sad story of a "returned" child made news, leading others to question whether adoption is the best thing—at least for the parents—especially when children are difficult and need more support, whether emotionally or physically. "You don't know what you're getting," they say, often adding that an adopted child could be "damaged." He or she could make your life uncomfortable, ruin the family dynamic.

To the Christian, the answer to all of that should be, "so what?"

First, the reality for Christians is that the Bible talks of God adopting believers into his family through the sacrifice of His son Jesus Christ. This is the foundation of Christianity. To reject adoption as a special calling for "other" people, or only adequate for extreme circumstances such as for infertility, is to reject the principle that God himself modeled. The actual question should be "is there any good reason not to adopt?"

There are good reasons not to. It would be irresponsible to suggest everyone should run out and sign up for home studies and adoption lists solely because it's the model of Christianity, but the question must be an honest inventory of why not?

Second, the Bible abounds with scriptures about orphans, and it is clear that the



job of the Christian is to take care of the orphan; James 1:27 describes this as "pure religion" that God accepts. One of the most oft-cited verses is Psalm 68:6 "God sets the lonely (some versions say solitary) in families." It brings a sort of comfort into pro-life circles to know this: "God will take care of the orphan; he loves the orphan and will give him a family." But it can also become a cliché, a cloud without water, if the next question is not "Do some of those lonely belong in my family?"

God does set the lonely in families, but God is a supernatural being who uses human beings to execute his work on earth. God gives resources and love and families to people, so they may share those

things with others. To say "God sets the lonely in families" then shut the door to the lonely outside of our homes is missing a key point of the gospel.

As pro-lifers, we rightly demand abortion stop. We decry the killing and pray for hours at abortion clinics, weeping over the loss of life. We post pictures and sayings on social media and proudly announce we only vote for pro-life candidates. But beyond that, the solution for abortion remains solely in our hands. It's negligent of us to expect everyone else to do the adopting. Not all pro-lifers are Christians, but the majority of those on the forefront are vocal about their faith. That voice must translate to adoption—in one way or another.

True family can be any lifelong bond God has knit together, and blood isn't a requirement for it to be real or somehow better because some DNA connects in a special way. Birth children can end up

with severe problems just as adopted children can. Love doesn't get to choose which goods are damaged, just as God didn't dictate who was too damaged to be in his family.

Family is a committed, loving relationship that is in our power to offer and support—whether by doing the adopting or by actively, financially and emotionally, supporting those who do.

Recently a comment appeared on a public site saying that adoption wasn't a "natural" thing, but to a Christian, it's the most natural thing that can be.

God didn't have to send Jesus, and Jesus didn't have to go to the cross to allow us a

way to the Father. The goal of this was to expand God's family through adoption. That statement sometimes gets so over-used in Christian culture that it loses personal meaning, and yet it's the reality of the gospel.

Janette Pettey and her husband Tim, who adopted both of their daughters, tells the story of how her daughter Hannah used to explain her adoption: "She used to say she was 'double adopted,' referring to her adoption into her natural family and also into her eternal family as a Christian," Janette says.

And that's the most natural thing of all.

...to a Christian, adoption is the most natural thing that can be.

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Adopt Kansas Kids works to connect foster and approved adoptive families with children throughout Kansas who need adoption. This service is provided by the Kansas Children's Service League through a contract with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Caring Pregnancy Options has some openings for volunteers. Please call 785-249-6130 for info or stop by our office, 2041 SW McAlister Ave, Mon - Thur 10-5. Ask for Kathy Hart.

Adoption can be messy

By Allison Schumm

Adoption can be messy! There is no doubt about this.

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, Born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." Gal 4:4-5

Redeem - such a pretty word - So pretty that we tend to forget what it means. It's the Greek word *exagorazo* meaning "by payment of a price to recover from the power of another, to ransom, buy off." This ransom cost God His only begotten son; Jesus was spit on, beat until he was unrecognizable and then He was crucified. Crucifixion was such a terrible death that it was forbidden to make a roman citizen suffer it.

God did this to buy back our sinners hearts. Galatians continues in 4:6-7: "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave, but son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

He loved us and wanted so much for us to be His sons and daughters, that not only were we redeemed, but we were given the Spirit of His Son in our hearts, that cries DADDY! We are heirs with Christ through God!

This is such a beautiful picture of redemption, and if we look at God as a picture of what we were supposed to model then we should be caring for orphans, in accordance to James 1:27, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by that world."

It's not just a command to care for widows and orphans, it is PURE RELIGION! And I would challenge you that it isn't just prayer, it isn't just picking up a sponsored child that you send \$10 a month for their care, it

■ Please see MESSY page 15

Mom says "Don't fear a special needs adoption"

Susanna | theblessingofverity.com

If fear is keeping you from special needs adoption...

What are you afraid of?

Losing your freedom and leisure time?

Losing control of your ability to choose the life you want?

Being stretched too thin financially, or even going under?

Being unable to adequately care for a child's special needs?

Not loving an adopted child like he or she needs to be loved?

Losing some of your preferred image or social standing?

The hard work?

The future for your child with special needs when you are old or have passed away?

Or something else?

Did you know that God hasn't said, "All My people must adopt?"

But He does command us, over and over and over again,

"Do not be afraid."

Don't be afraid?

Isn't some fear good?? Can't fear play a role in helping us make wise decisions?

God's command not to fear does not mean, "Do not feel afraid." It means that we as His people can not walk in obedience to Him while we make decisions based on the wrong kind of fear. The right kind of fear keeps us from doing what is wrong, but the wrong kind of fear keeps us from doing what is right.

What stops many qualified families from taking the next step toward special needs adoption is not the obstacles themselves. What's stopping them is simply their fear of the obstacles.

And then sometimes they fear that they aren't qualified simply because they feel afraid. Or they think that their fears are a message from God telling them not to adopt. Not true!

Did we have fears throughout our adoption of Katie?

Yes, at times I struggled with terrible fear. I was afraid of the power of mere human beings to stop the adoption process. After God opened my eyes to the truth that this fear was based on unbelief in His limit-



The author's daughter, Katie

less power, I still had to battle fear. We have first-hand experience with the fact that He is not a tame lion. What if He stopped the process before Katie was our daughter? I had to have the truth ready for the fight when it came, and at times it felt like a fight to the death! Besides the truth that nothing is too hard for God, it is also true that He is good and cannot make mistakes. He gave us a fervent, over-arching desire for Him to show Himself as the God He really is, and for Him to write Katie's story and our story in the way He knew would best make that happen. No matter what.

And now? Our family has lost a lot of our former fears. But no matter how much trust we eventually learn to have in our trustworthy God, it will never come close to the enormity of His trustworthiness. In other words, His power, His grace, His faithfulness will always far exceed our faith

in Him, no matter how great our faith grows.

Do you know what fear I most commonly hear about from potential adoptive parents?

It's the fear that they might miss God's will and mistakenly adopt when He didn't want them to. As a result, they fear, their family will be miserable, or their household

■ Please see SPECIAL page 17

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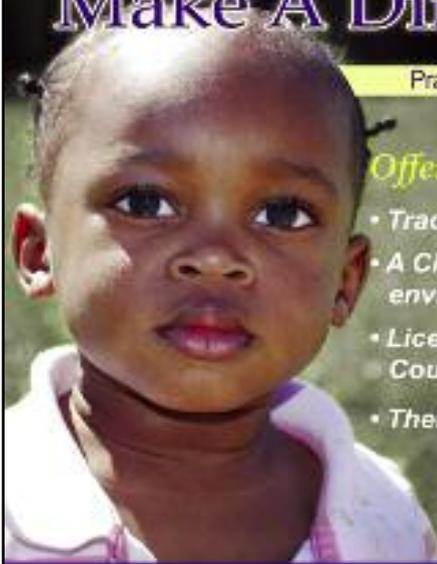


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In Northeast Kansas, contact:
Allison Schumm 785-410-4810
Kathryn Peoples 785-207-9760
allison@projectbelong.org kat@projectbelong.org

Statewide the number of children awaiting adoption on 7/31/14 was 977
Statewide, of the adoptions finalized, 66% were by foster parents.
Help with finding a child their home.

for more information on adoptive resources visit
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