

## **His Precious Child**

### **John 1:12-13**

I was sixteen years old when I held my firstborn child. I was a child myself. And I remember looking at that little face and being completely in love. I knew, even then, that I would do absolutely anything for that child. My instincts to protect and care for him immediately kicked in and all I wanted to do was make sure that this little boy always knew that he was loved and wanted. He was my precious child.

When I was nineteen, I married a man who loved my son as I did. Though they did not share a biological connection or a last name, my husband raised that little boy as his own. He cared for him and provided for him as he grew up. He showed up to school plays, football games, and graduation ceremonies. He was there for every heartbreak and every celebration. As far as my husband was concerned, that boy was his precious son.

When my son turned nineteen, he found himself planning his own wedding. The now young man said to my husband, "As my wedding day approaches, and as I imagine what my life will look like starting a family of my own, I cannot imagine not having my dad's last name. That's the name I want my

wife and my children to have. That's the name I want." He then asked my husband if he would adopt him and give him his last name. My husband's response was that he had always been his son and with great joy, he adopted him just weeks before the wedding.

Friends, we have been given the opportunity to be adopted by God, to become His children.

God's Word tells us in John 1:12-13, *"Yet to all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."*

We are all created by God. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 139:13, *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."* God sees us and loves us simply because we are His creation. And while it is true that we are all created by God, we must be adopted by Him to be called His children.

John reminds us of three truths in verse 13. The first truth is that being a child of God has nothing to do with our natural birth. Other biblical

translations read “not of blood” meaning that this spiritual adoption has nothing to do with a physical blood relationship.

The second truth is that being a child of God does not depend on human will. Many of us have loved ones who are believers and who pray for us, but simply knowing someone who knows the Lord, and prays that we would know Him too, does not make us a child of God.

The third truth is that being a child of God is not dependent on human decision, meaning that we are not the source of this adoption. We cannot simply decide that we are His child and then live however we want to live. This adoption is only possible through God. His word tells us that He makes us His children only when we receive His Son, Jesus Christ, and believe in His name.

But once we make that choice, we bear a new name: His precious child.

John 3:16 tells us, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

From the moment you and I choose to believe and accept Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives, God sees us through the lens of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and we are accepted and adopted. With our new name, we also receive the inheritance of our Heavenly Father - eternal life. God wants to make sure that you and I know that we are loved and wanted. We are His precious children.

The chorus of Hillsong Worship's song, "Who You Say I Am" says this:

*"Who the son sets free, oh is free indeed; I'm a child of God, yes I am.  
In my Father's house, there's a place for me; I'm a child of God, yes I am."*

My son wanted my husband's last name because it said to the world that he was his son. As he lives his life and grows his family, it's my husband's name that will live on in generations to come.

When we come to Jesus and we are adopted into God's family, we are given God's name. Our daily lives tell the world that we belong to Him, that we are His children. As we live in the full understanding that we have the inheritance of eternal life, we can love people into the Kingdom who are still looking to be loved and wanted. As more choose to receive Jesus and believe in Him, they are adopted into the family of God and the name of the

Lord will live on for generations to come. What a blessing it is to be His precious children!