

Sons and Daughters

We're described in the Bible as being sons and daughters. What does it look like for how we relate to God? What does it look like for how we relate to the church?

How we relate to God

Galatians 4:4-7 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

We were brought into the family of God because we have been *adopted*. That is, we have had our status, our name, our family identity fully changed and been given full legal and familial status in the family of God. He has taken us out of slavery to the flesh on earth and brought us into His family, given us His name, he's shown us love.

How we relate to the church

1 Timothy 5:1-2 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

What does this mean for us as a church right now? I think we have an opportunity to succeed where culture is failing. Generational differences shouldn't lead to division, but our culture wants to create generational division.

In church, we can model something different. We can have intergenerational friendships, true friendships, not just mentor/mentee, but close relationships that defy the culture. Paul encourages Timothy to see older people as mothers and fathers, which has three implications:

1. We have to honour them.
2. We should absolutely listen to their wisdom. Swallow your pride.
3. When it comes time, we should care for them.

Questions

1. Why does God repeatedly use the image of adoption when talking about he relates to us?
2. How does the image of adoption help us understand how we can relate to God?
3. Why does culture want to set generations against one another?
4. What can intergenerational friendships look like?
5. How can we treat older people as mothers and fathers?