

Adoption is an outpouring of God's grace on all involved

Grace in the Time of Need

A crisis pregnancy is a time of intense struggle for a young woman. Her pregnancy could be a result of poor choices and lack of wisdom. Or, the events surrounding her baby's conception might have been out of her control, such as in the case of incest or rape. Whatever the situation, she is experiencing emotional pain and a feeling of helplessness to an extent that she may have never felt before. She is in the midst of a great time of need—the need for a resolution, the need for compassion, the need for support. Life seems “on hold” and things will never be the same again.

In a different set of circumstances, but feeling similar emotions, is the couple facing infertility. The inability to conceive or carry a pregnancy to term is one of the most difficult obstacles a family-oriented couple can face. Couples dealing with infertility experience a grieving process that can be debilitating and alienating. Again, life seems to be “on hold” and hopelessness can set in.

Perhaps most tragically, some children today experience utter hopelessness because of their family situation. More than 600,000 American children will spend all or part of this year in substitute care such as foster homes, group homes or shelters (at least 50,000 of them are free to be adopted). Many of these children have experienced abuse or neglect, or have biological parents who cannot adequately care for them. Beyond our borders, many children in poor nations wait for permanent families.

Grace Breaks Through

In the midst of these types of seemingly hopeless struggles we have a loving God who gives us gracious answers. Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us:

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses....Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Women in crisis, couples desiring to parent, children in need of homes—adoption can be God’s grace and mercy to them in their time of need.*¹

Adoption Benefits Children

Children placed in adoption experience God’s grace in a similar way to children who are born into a family. Adopted children can feel comfort and love, knowing that a future was planned for them that was in their best interest. As children grow older this can be palpable evidence of God’s direction and sovereignty in their lives.

An adoption plan, as it progresses and after it is in place, can be a powerful example of God’s working circumstances for good for all those involved. God uses adoption, just as He can any human relationship, to further His purposes and to bring about wholeness and healing.

The church’s active involvement could vastly improve the prospects for adoption in our country. Local churches could counsel young women toward adoption as an alternative to either abortion or single parenthood.... It could give its hearty endorsement to adoption as a way of prospering the lives of all concerned.

Terry Schlossberg and Elizabeth Achtemeier

*Not My Own: Abortion
and the Marks of the Church*²

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¹ Adoptive parents do not have to be infertile to know the depth of God’s grace when a child comes to them through adoption. In infant adoption, however, it is common for the adoptive parents to have experienced infertility.

² Terry Schlossberg and Elizabeth Achtemeier, *Not My Own: Abortion and the Marks of the Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1995), p. 122.

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