



Exploring Adoption

“First comes love, then comes marriage...” Do you remember the next line to that old children’s rhyme? Here’s a hint: it had something to do with a “baby carriage”.

From early childhood on, the concept of falling in love, getting married, and then starting a family has been a part of the fabric of our culture. Of course, the parameters of that fabric have changed a bit over the years. According to the most recent data available from the U.S. Census Bureau, the so-called “traditional family” (a husband and wife who had only been married to each other and were parents) accounted for just 25 percent of all households in this country. But while those numbers may have shifted, another statistic has definitely not – the number of children living with adoptive parents.

It is estimated that approximately 1 million kids in the U.S. currently live with adoptive parents. In addition, another 500,000 or so are in foster care, with close to one fourth of those children available for adoption.

With so many American kids in need of a family – and a growing number of children overseas in the same situation – the question for many adults today is, “Is adoption for us?”

My wife, Cathy, and I found ourselves asking that same question a little over 25 years ago. During the first few years of our marriage, we were busy with ministry and the adjustment to married life. Starting a family was certainly part of the plan. But in spite of our best efforts, we didn’t seem to be able to conceive.

After much prayer and soul-searching, we agreed that perhaps God was calling us to be adoptive parents. So we began to explore our options. Looking back now, there were certainly many steps to take – finding the right agency, handling the paperwork, considering the cost involved, and answering questions such as, “Would you like to

adopt a boy or a girl?” But at the time, all of those details seemed like a blur.

Two days after our daughter was born, her birth mother released her to us. We decided to name her Christy ... and once we brought her home, Cathy and I joined the 6 out of 10 Americans who have had a personal experience with adoption.

Ten Questions to Consider Before Adopting

1. Are we ready to be parents?
2. What kind of impact is this child going to have on us individually? On our marriage?
3. How much exactly will the entire adoption process cost – including legal fees, medical expenses, and international travel, if necessary?
4. Does my employer offer any kind of financial assistance?
5. Do we want to adopt an infant? Would we consider an older child who needs placement?
6. Should we consider a season as foster parents first before full adoption?
7. What kind of child-care and other support will we need from our extended family to raise this child? Is that support readily available and affordable?
8. If already parents: what kind of impact will an adopted brother or sister have on our biological children?
9. Are we ready to make a lifetime commitment to this child?
10. If we don’t adopt now, would we ever consider doing so in the future?

Adoption is a beautiful way to build your family.

Long Hollow’s Adoption Assistance

- Home Study Assistance
- Matching adoption grants for members (up to \$1500)
- Pre-adoption guidance

- Post-adoption guidance
- Making basic decisions
- Dossier compilation
- Notary
- Q&A with families that have adopted
- Basic information on international adoption, domestic adoption and the U.S. foster care system.
- If You Were Mine seminars throughout the year
- Evaluating adoption agencies
- Investigating funding options
- Assistance in gathering and submitting paperwork
- Assistance in finalizing your adoptions

Contact erica.ho@longhollow.com for more information or visit www.longhollow.com/lovealot

RELATED SCRIPTURE

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory (Romans 8:15-17).

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding (Ephesians 1:3-5).

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise... (Galatians 3:26-4:7).

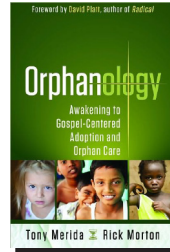
But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father. So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir (Galatians 4:4-7).

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23).

....the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises (Romans 9:4).



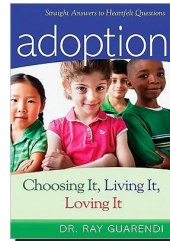
RELATED RESOURCES



Orphanology

Tony Merida & Rick Morton
ISBN 978-1596693029

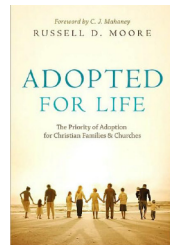
Orphan care is more than just adoption. At the heart of orphan care is grace. Grace that flows from Christ’s redemptive work on the Cross. Grace that reconciles us with God. Grace that we extend through the care of orphans and others.



Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families & Churches

Russell D. Moore
ISBN 978-1581349115

Adopted for Life is a manifesto calling Christians to adopt children and to equip Christian families going through the process. Offers biblical foundations for adoption and identifies adoption as a Great Commission priority. A Focus on the Family recommendation.



Adoption

Raymond Guarendi
ISBN 978-0867169133

Ray Guarendi, psychologist, husband and father of ten adopted children, considers the most commonly asked adoption questions with insight, humor and a heart for the adoptive family. His aim? To dispel unsettling misperceptions about adoption, to encourage others to think about and act on adoption, and to guide adoptive parents to a more relaxed, rewarding family life for all involved. A must-have resource for those considering adoption, those who have already adopted and those in the mix as family members or friends of adoptive parents.