

“I will not leave you orphaned. I will come to you.” (John 14:18)

Adoption is one of the most beautiful gifts that can be given in this world. Sadly, there are still some people who look down on the idea in comparison to the family that is given through birth. But there is something wonderful about the idea of adoption. To me, it has to do with being chosen. My brother-in-law is adopted, and has a great relationship with the only mom and dad he has ever known. The way I have heard them and others talk about the gift of adoption is to say that when a child is born into your family, you are given that child. You are participating in the miracle of creating life, and this life comes into the world and it's yours. Period, end of story. The child didn't ask for you, and you as parents, once the process began, were ready to unconditionally welcome that life no matter what. With adoption, a family consciously chooses a child. There is a sense of being singled out. A relationship is born out agreement, as a family freely and openly chooses to There is a deliberate decision to love, nurture, protect, care, for a chosen and specific child of God. I'm not saying that either one is better than the other. Both are unique and miraculous experiences.

I love my family dearly, and I know that they love me completely and unconditionally. I am proud and happy with the family that I found myself to be in by birth. But I find myself admiring, marveling, and almost envying the experience of children who find this love, nurture, security, and freedom, through the gift of adoption – through the gift of a family literally coming to them and saying, “I have chosen you be love for all of time,” not because they are obligated by law, but because they want to with all of their hearts.

Jesus spoke to his followers and promised to never leave them orphaned. In baptism and by the mercy, grace, love, and compassion of God, we are chosen and singled out by God. Each one of us God not only loves unconditionally but **CHOSE** to love, forgive, redeem, and sanctify from now and for all of time. We are never abandoned. We are never without an identity or a place to call home. We are never without an inheritance and a purpose and a future. We are never alone in the circumstances of life. – because God chose us and claimed us as children. The Lord will not leave us orphaned.

P.B.

Reminders –

- Strengthening Marriage bible study on Thursdays at 7:30, beginning May 1st, in the Fireside Room.
- New Member meetings to be offered on May 7 and 14 at 7:30. Initially, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pray for Our Troops, and continue to pray for children as Child Abuse Prevention Month draws to a close
- Pray also for the 400+ children in Texas whose futures hang in the balance of court decisions.