

Adoption Month

Massachusetts was the first state to proclaim National Adoption Week, in 1976. Additional states began to declare a special week to focus on adoption until National Adoption Month was instituted in 1990. Each November, the President proclaims National Adoption Awareness Month to draw attention to the increasing number of children in our child-welfare system waiting to be adopted into stable, loving families.

Throughout the country, individuals, families, communities, businesses and organizations commemorate National Adoption Awareness Month to honor adoption as a positive way to build families. Special activities and campaigns highlight the needs of children waiting for permanent homes. The celebration now includes National Adoption Day, which is November 17, on which many local adoption ceremonies are planned simultaneously.

Spiritually speaking, all believers are adopted children. To be adopted means “to be chosen.” The first chapter of Ephesians tells us that God chose us “even before He made the world (Ephesians 1:4). In love He planned for us to be adopted as His children “by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 1:5). The Holy Spirit is our adoption certificate, proving that we have become a part of God’s family – as loving and permanent a family as we can get.

The process, however, is not yet complete. God wants all His adopted children to look like Him. When we leave our earthly bodies someday and receive our new eternal ones, then the transformation will be complete. In the meantime, all the circumstances of our lives are transforming us into God’s image. Even though we’re adopted, our goal is to have a striking family resemblance to our Father.

We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as His adopted children, including the new bodies He has promised us (Romans 8:23).

--Beecher Hunter