

Definition	Roman Adoption and Our Spiritual Adoption	
<p>1. We have received the Spirit of adoption as sons (Rom 8:15, Eph 1:5)</p> <p>5206 υιοθεσία huiiothesia = to place one as a son</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is not so much a word of relationship as of position - the new birth gives us the <u>nature</u> of sons, adoption gives us the <u>privilege</u> of sons - the placed son has the same rights and obligations as a child by birth - adoption is a legal pronouncement that never needs to be repeated; it is permanently valid and binding - as sons we as the adopted ones have also become heirs standing to inherit all that belongs to our Father <p>2. this Greek word 5206 – <i>huiiothesia</i> is used in the NT only by Paul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the OT is virtually silent about adoption - Jewish law did not prescribe adoption and there is no evidence Jews practiced it - it is likely that Paul was drawing on the adoption law of the Roman Empire of his day 	<p><u>The Process of Roman Adoption</u></p> <p>1. Roman adoption into another family was a very difficult and serious step because of PATRIA POTESTAS = paternal authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a father had absolute power and control over his children as long as he and they lived even to imprison or kill them if he so chose - under Roman law a child could not possess anything; any inheritance or any gift given to him became the property of his father <p>2. in a two-step legal adoption ritual, a person passed from one paternal power to another</p> <p>1) MANCIPATIO = the legal breaking of the “patria potestas” of a person’s birth father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it was carried out in the presence of at least five witnesses plus one person holding scales - it was carried out as a symbolic sale repeated three times, using copper and scales - the “emancipation” of the son resulted <p>2) VINDICATIO = the legal transference of authority and power to the adopting father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it was carried out by the adopting father before a praetor, a Roman magistrate 	<p><u>The Results of Roman Adoption</u></p> <p>1. the adopted son lost all rights associated with his old family and gained all the rights of his new family and life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we have been granted everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet 1:1-3) <p>2. the adopted son’s old life was, by law, wiped out completely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - our sins have been wiped out and God remembers them no more (Isa 43:25) <p>3. the adopted son’s debts and obligations connected with his previous life and family were all abolished as if they had never existed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on the cross Jesus cancelled out our debts having forgiven us all our sins (Col 2:13-14) <p>4. the adopted son was regarded as a new person entering into a new life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in Christ all the old things passed away and all things have become new (2 Cor 5:17) <p>5. the adopted son became an inalienable co-heir with the sons by birth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17)