

BORN INTO GOD'S FAMILY

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Some terms of the New Testament Church are: Kingdom, vineyard, body, bride, building, sheepfold, saved, etc. Just as there are many figures for the Church, there are many figures for the process of becoming Christians and being added to the Church (Acts 2:47). These may be called salvation metaphors. Failure to understand these has caused misunderstanding, and division among many people. May the few minutes it takes to read this article clarify this matter.

- 1) **JUSTIFICATION**: Looks at the man outside of Christ as guilty. He comes to Christ and accepts him as Savior according to the plan of salvation, and thus is declared innocent, or justified. Titus 3:7
- 2) **SANCTIFICATION**: Regards the alien sinner as unclean, unfit for the service of God. He comes to Christ and is cleansed of his sins and set apart for God's service. I Corinthians 6:11
- 3) **RECONCILIATION**: Considers the sinner as an enemy of God because of sin. He comes to Christ, accepts and obeys him and is then a friend of God. Colossians 1:21-23
- 4) **REDEMPTION**: Views the sinner as a slave. He accepts Christ and is redeemed, bought back, made free. Christ purchased our freedom on the cross. Romans 3:24; Colossians 1:13,14
- 5) **ELECTION**: The sinner is not eligible for salvation. He comes to Christ, via God's plan of salvation and is elected or chosen for salvation. Thus, he is an elect of God. He comes to Christ on Christ's terms and then God elects him into His family. II Timothy 2:10
- 6) **ADOPTION**: Views the sinner as an orphan, he comes to Christ and becomes a child in God's family through adoption. Ephesians 1:5,6
- 7) **REGENERATION**: Under this figure the alien sinner is considered a member of Satan's family and formerly a child of disobedience. Now he is quickened, made alive, or regenerated. Ephesians 2:1-5

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