

x their best to persuade him to stay with them, but he said, "Blood is thicker than water! I'm going to go to my real parents. I'm going to find out where I really come from." So he found that his father and mother were divorced. His mother was living in California. He went out there. She was now married to a guard in San Quentin Penitentiary. So he came in and lived with them there and when his adopted parents wished to write to him they had to write to him addressing San Quentin Penitentiary, where he was living with his parents -- with this woman and her husband, and they began making him work, taking everything he earned, and he soon found they were just not the kind of people he cared x to be with very long. After a few months of that his folks in Riverside, Ill. got a telegram: "I have two <sup>parents</sup> ~~parents~~ and they both live in Riverside, Ill." You can imagine how happy they were at that.

Well, there is the family into which each of us has been born-- the family of the devil. We naturally are inclined to evil, to that which is harmful. But God has adopted us if we believe in Jesus Christ. We are ~~xxx~~ children of God and members of His family. But we are not simply members of His family by creation; by birth we belong to the family of the devil. We are fallen ones by birth. But we have been adopted into the family of God if we know the Lord Jesus Christ.

This same passage in Ephesians mentions that very clearly. In Eph. 1:5, "Having predestinated us into the adoption of sons, by Jesus Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of His will. God adopted us. He had predestinated us to be adopted. He had planned from all eternity that we would turn to Christ and be saved, and that we would be adopted, but he actually adopted us at the time when we turned to Christ. We are ~~a~~ adopted children. We are children God has chosen and in whom God has brought