

October 23, 2022

choosing **PROXIMITY**

"EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING"

Jason Johnson

Christian Alliance for Orphans - National Director of Church Ministry Initiatives

Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Verse 4: THE DOCTRINE OF INCARNATION

"I see you where you are and I'm coming after you!"

Matthew 1:22-23 (ESV)

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

John 1:14a (ESV)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

[Compassion] is not a bending toward the underprivileged from a privileged position; it is not a reaching out from on high to those who are less fortunate below; it is not a gesture of sympathy or pity for those who fail to make it in the upward pull. On the contrary, compassion means going directly to those people and places where suffering is most acute and building a home there. HENRI NOUWEN

God sees hard places and broken people and moves toward them, not away.

Galatians 4:5 – PAST REDEEMED

Galatians 4:6 – PRESENT SHIFTED

Galatians 4:7 – FUTURE ALTERED

James 1:27 (ESV)

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

"an outward display of what's inwardly true"

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

"move towards; get involved with; sense of permanence"

representative of most vulnerable

One of the purest and most undefiled demonstrations of the gospel is to see hard places and broken people and move toward them, not away.

Implications = Clear

Applications = Broad

Romans 12:4-6 (ESV)

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...

We are not all called to do the same thing, but we are all capable of doing something. Everyone can do something.

There's no "just" or "only" in foster care. What's your something?