

# Helping Your Adopted Child

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Understanding Your Child's  
Unique Identity

Paul David Tripp



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I will never forget that day. Our whole family waited in anxious anticipation at the gate reserved for us at the Philadelphia airport. All of a sudden she arrived. The adoption agency representative carried her, face forward, towards us. She was just four months old and had never seen us before, but she smiled from ear to ear. The agency worker placed her in my wife's waiting arms, and we all crumbled into a pool of emotion.

That precious package is now twenty-five years old. The journey of adoption hasn't always been easy, but we are very thankful we made this important choice, and there is absolutely no doubt she is too!

Deciding to be God's agent in the forming of a human soul is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. And it's even more amazing to open your home and heart to a child who is unable

to be nurtured by his biological parents. Yet, for all of its beauty, adoption also has significant challenges. Understanding your adopted child from God's perspective will allow you to face those challenges by faith and with hope. Take a moment to read this book. It will help you to think biblically about the choice you made and give you direction on how you can help your adopted child.

### **In God's Eyes You Are Doing a Good Thing**

Defending, loving, nurturing, and providing for a homeless child is very close to the heart of God. It's a concrete expression of the love he has for us and the love he calls us to have for others. God describes himself as a "father to the fatherless" (Psalm 68:5); he tells us to "defend the cause of the fatherless" (Isaiah 1:17); and he uses his people's unwillingness to "plead the case of the fatherless" (Jeremiah 5:28), as evidence of how sinful they had become.

Why is this important to remember? It's

important because the people around you—other members of your family and even your adopted child—will not always recognize the God-honoring beauty of what you are doing. On the hard days when nothing you do seems right and you spend most of your time dealing with conflict and rebellion, you must remind yourself, *What I am doing right now, although hard, is close to God's heart.* And, *What I am doing is exactly what God has called his children to do.*

### **Adopting Your Child Was God's Plan**

In God's world there are no "Plan B" addresses. Just as God planned for your natural children to be born to you, he also planned for this child to be in your home. Long before you made the choice to adopt, long before your child was born, God knew the precious value of his or her life and decided that your home would be the place for this child to receive loving care. The apostle Paul says that God determines the exact place where every person will

live (Acts 17:26). Your adopted child is with you because of a wise choice made by a loving God, who cares for you and for the child you have welcomed into your home.

### **Your Adopted Child Is Unique**

God's plan was that children would be raised by their biological parents. But sin entered the world and caused the relational and familial brokenness that sometimes leads to the separation of children from their natural parents. Although you are doing a wonderful thing, you must recognize that children were meant to live with their natural parents. When children are raised by those who aren't their natural parents, there will be struggles and difficulties. Parenting an adopted child is often harder than parenting your natural child. Your adopted child deals with significant personal issues that your natural child never has to deal with.

God planned for parents to pass down physical