



## Closer to the Fire: Images of a Vibrant Community

6. How does “creation groan?” Over what? How does this groaning find form?
  
7. How do we groan (those who enjoy “the first fruits of the Spirit”)? Are we awaiting adoption or awaiting the final benefits of something already accomplished? Is the “adoption” now and the “redemption of our bodies” later?
  
8. Read Ephesians 1:3-6
  
9. Did we choose God or did God choose us? Go ahead and spend a few minutes on this one question that confounds generations of theologians.
  
10. We are adopted as children. Why do many people, including Christians, say that “everyone is a child of God?”
  
11. Apparently this adoption process is according to God’s pleasure and will. What might be pleasurable from God’s perspective?

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12. READ 1 John 3:1-3

13. “Now we are children of God.” Before, we were *what?* (I like Ephesians 2:10.)

14. A judge at an adoption hearing pounds a gavel and says, “It is *as if* he/she were your biological child.” Is the final fulfillment of our adoption the day when we are more truly like “the only begotten” child of God? “We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” What is that about?