

The Adoption Review Board

Geoff stands in front of the congregation looking very despondent. He's holding a clipboard that he's looking at. Stephen comes in.

S: Geoff, you're looking glum.

G: Yeah.

S: What happened?

G: I had that meeting last night.

S: What meeting?

G: Y'know – The meeting!

S: No, I don't know. What meeting are you talking about?

G: So Steve, are you not a Christian?

S: Yes, I'm a Christian.

G: Well then, you would know all about the meeting.

S: No, I don't know about 'The Meeting'. What meeting?

G: The meeting of the Adoption Review Board.

S: The Adoption Review Board? Wow, Geoff. I didn't know you had been adopted.

G: What are you talking about? As Christians we have all been adopted into God's family, and last night it was my turn to come before the Adoption Review Board to have my monthly review.

S: Really?

G: Yes, really!

S: So, what happened in your review meeting.

G: The usual. Steve, surely if you are a Christian you know.

Steve looks bewildered

G: Once again the Adoption Review Board listed off all the ways I had failed to love God with all my heart, and soul and mind and strength. I have the list right here (shows clipboard). The adoption review board again told me that if I didn't up my game, that if I didn't improve my performance, then my status as an adopted child of God would have to be called into question, re-examined, with a view to a possible rescinding of my adoption as a son of God.

S: No wonder you're glum.

G: Tell me about it.

S: Geoff, I have some really good news for you.

G: What? *(still looking glum)*

S: There is no such thing as an 'Adoption Review Board'.

G: Sure *(sarcastic)*. Next, you'll be telling me that I don't have a belly button.

S: You do have a belly button. ... But there is no 'Adoption Review Board'.

G: So, who have I been meeting with month after month, year after year? Tell me that!

(Steve looks at Geoff)

G: Ohh! ... Him!

S: Yes.

G: Wow, no wonder I felt so glum.

S: When your heavenly Father talks to you about your 'performance' as his child, he speaks to you from his loving Father heart.

G: He does?

S: He doesn't accuse; he doesn't condemn.

G: He doesn't?

S: When your heavenly Father talks to you about your sin, he acts to lift you up, not crush you down.

G: He does?

S: When he speaks to you, he may speak very strongly to you, and you may come to feel strongly convicted in your spirit. You may even feel cut to the heart, and enter into a deep godly sorrow.

G: Ohh!

S: But, this will be, and will feel to be, life giving. And you will feel encouraged, and you will feel grateful, because you will have received a great blessing.

G: I will? I will! Ok! No more adoption review board meetings. I'm done with them.

S: Great. But I have to warn you ...

G: Uh Oh, is this where you tell me that what you told me, is actually too good to be true?

S: No, no, no, no. What I told you is all true. I just need to warn you that the evil one is very sneaky, and he will ever try to sneak accusations in to drag you down. He can be very subtle how he does it.

G: Ok. I need to be on my guard.

S: Yeah, don't let yourself get sucked into those little impromptu meetings where he has a go at you, pretending to be God.

G: God help me.

S: May the Holy Spirit within help us all to discern the beautiful, life giving voice of our Abba Father, who's pleasure it is to make us his children and keep us as his children forever.