

Religion and Adoption*

“In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

Ephesians 1:5-6

Adoption is one of the clearest illustrations of how God loves us through others. Social science research details the positive influence of religion for parents who adopt, and the benefits that adoption brings to these children:

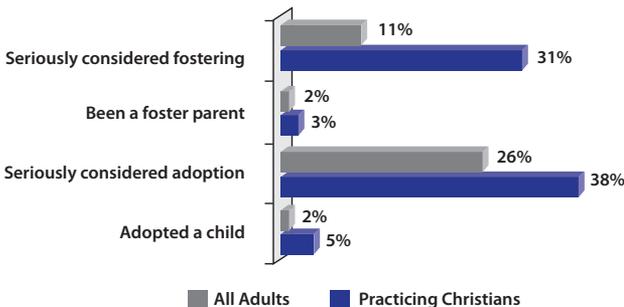
- Parents who reported high religious practice were more likely to indicate that faith was an important factor in choosing to adopt.
- Greater parental religious practice corresponds with the adoption of more children and a larger family size.
- Religious commitment helps alleviate stress in parents who adopt.
- Adopted children have even stronger communication with their parents than biological children, and their relationships with peers and parents as a whole are more positive.
- By the age of 33, the majority of adopted children are found to be in better social and material situations than their non-adopted counterparts. Additionally, adopted women in particular fare better in general in all areas of life.
- In mathematics, adopted children do not perform differently than biological children, and in reading, adopted boys perform significantly better than biological children do.

Given the enormous benefits of adoption, is this something you want to consider for your family? Can your church start an adoption initiative? We need a culture of adoption to grow the culture of life.

This graph demonstrates the positive effect of committed Christian faith on the rate of adoption. At the core of Christianity is the belief that we are all adopted into the family of God. Adoption is a way to manifest this beautiful truth by caring for those without a home. How can we encourage even more Christians to adopt?

Who is Adopting?

While adopting and fostering remain rare, practicing Christians are more than twice as likely as the general public to adopt and significantly more likely to consider adopting or fostering.



Source: Barna Group

For links to the research behind these statements, please visit www.marri.us/churchbulletins

*It bears emphasizing that these patterns hold for the groups involved, not for all the individuals who make up each group. There is naturally a wide variation among individuals.



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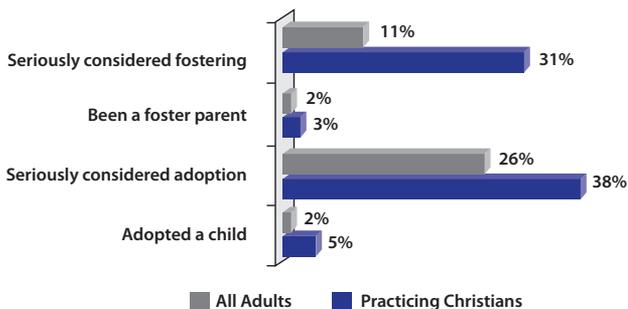
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