

Freedom

Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Last week we focused on Vs. 14

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”

- Children of God are led by the Spirit of God
- We looked at 9 aspects of being led by the Spirit of God.
- What does it look like and feel like in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ?
- What happens when we are led by the Holy Spirit

1. When I obey the Holy Spirit, the result is spiritual life.

Galatians 5:22-23a

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

2. The Holy Spirit gives me direction for life.

Luke 4:1

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness

3. The Holy Spirit is always in agreement with the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 2:11b-13b

¹¹ ...In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, **not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit...**

4. The Holy Spirit convicts me of sin.

John 16:8a, 9

⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin...⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;

5. The Holy Spirit leads me to crucify sinful desires.

Galatians 5:24-25

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

6. The Holy Spirit warns me concerning falling away from Christ.

Hebrews 3:7, 8, 12

⁷ So, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts...

¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

7. The Holy Spirit exhorts believers to persevere in the faith.

Hebrews 3:13-14

¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

8. The Holy Spirit’s promptings become weaker the longer they are resisted.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not quench the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30-31

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

Ephesians 4:17b-19a

¹⁷ ...you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity...

9. When the Holy Spirit is rejected, it results in spiritual death.

Romans 8:6,13

⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

I. The Holy Spirit leads me to freedom.

A. It is a miracle

1. You received a **Spirit** at salvation.
2. God resides in the soul of the believer by his **Spirit**.
3. In other words -- when you get saved you get **God' Spirit**.
4. When you are born again the new life you have is made possible **through** the work of the **Holy Spirit** which is alive in you.

B. When you surrender your life to Christ you are **no longer a slave**.

Vs. 15

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again;

1. You were **once a slave** - **but** not anymore.

C. Slavery brought with it a fearful obligation.

1. Slaves were subject to the slave master.

Illustration

- Many were slaves because of financial obligations.
- What happens if your loan was called in?
- What happens if your slave master no longer gave the slave any grace when it came to repayment?
- What happens if I cannot repay this loan off before I die...
- My kids will be strapped with this "debt" or slavery?
- What would happen to them?

D. You are not a slave to what used to keep you captive.

1. You don't live in fear again

Straw Man

- A slave but not a slave.

Romans 6:17-18

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

E. Unpack

1. Before salvation you were a slave to sin.
 - a. Sin was your **task master**.
 - b. Sin **controlled you**.
 - c. Sin **bound you**.
 - d. Sin had you **all tied up**.
 - e. You woke up in **bondage**.
 - f. You went to **school in bondage**
 - g. You went to **work in bondage**
 - h. You tried to sin your way out of bondage – led to more bondage
 - i. You did **not** have **any power over sin**.
 - j. You were forced more and more.
 - k. Sin controlled you... You were a SLAVE.

2. Without Jesus you are a slave to sin.

Remember... the only sin you have victory over is a forgiven sin.

3. At one time you were a slave to sin...
 - a. But thanks be to God... Thank you Jesus – I am no longer bound.
 - b. I am no longer in chains.
 - c. I am no longer all tied up.
 - d. I am free!!!**
 - e. Thanks be to God, I used to be a slave to sin...

“You have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.”

4. There is a pattern of teaching.

What’s the pattern...

 - a. The pattern is one that follows Christ.
 - b. The pattern puts Jesus first.
 - c. The pattern of teaching leads you to the cross to **DIE to your self**.
5. This pattern of teaching claims your allegiance.
 - a. You follow the way that crucifies the flesh.
 - b. The way that leads you to the cross.

c. The way that leads you to holiness.

The best gift you can give to your family and friends is your personal holiness.

d. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

a. No longer are you a forced slave to sin that leads to fear.

b. You are a **willing servant of righteousness.**

c. Your servanthood is based on righteousness.

The righteousness of Christ – has been attributed to you.

d. And this servanthood is the most joyful way to live on the planet!

This state is further described as *to fear*, for slavery to sin inevitably leads to fear.

1 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, **are being transformed into his image** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Illustration

Talk about what you exchange to him.

- Addiction for freedom
- Perversion for purity
- Greed for generosity
- Hatred for unconditional love
- Unforgiveness for forgiveness FOREVER
- Death for life
- Despair for hope
- Nakedness for clothing
- Blindness for sight
- Foolishness for wisdom
- Self-indulgence for self-control
- Can't keep a promise for faithfulness
- Self-pity for an overcoming spirit
- Brokenness for healing

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Application

1. Free from the wages of sin.
2. Ultimately free from the eternal consequences of sin.
3. Free from the that kind of slavery that leads to fear.
4. I am no longer afraid.
5. I am free in Jesus Christ.
6. It is a **JOY** to submit myself to **HIS LORDSHIP!**
7. It delights me to do that.
8. I don't do it out of fear... I do it out of love.
9. I don't do it out of concern for the ramifications of not doing it I do it because **I LOVE HIM**
10. I might have gotten saved because of the fear of death and eternal separation from God but **I am kept by his LOVE.**
11. His **ALL POWERFUL LOVE.**
12. I am amazed by his grace and I am captured by his LOVE.

His love is transformational.

His love is sooooo freeing.

The Holy Spirit leads me to freedom.

II. The Holy Spirit connects me to a spiritual family.

Romans 8:15

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

- A. The contrast is made between a slave and a son.
 1. When you surrender your heart to Christ you are no longer a slave.
 2. You were once a slave but not anymore.
 3. Now you have been adopted.
 4. Adopted to sonship.

B. Sonship not daughter-ship

1. We should be careful here - in our desire to make sure we don't unnecessarily offend or alienate someone.

Illustration

- Ladies stay with me.
 - Men we are referred to as brides in the Bible
 - The bride of Christ – Jesus is the bridegroom and we are his bride in the sense that he is
 1. Coming back for us.
 2. Preparing a place for us.
 3. He is jealous for us.
 4. We are in covenant relationship with Christ.
 5. We are HIS FOREVER in heaven.
2. There are times where the masculine tone is a **cultural norm** that actually includes everybody.
 - a. **Mankind** – includes everyone
 - b. The use of **He** when the text would include both men and women.
 3. You have been adopted to sonship is gender specific.
 - a. In this case the use of the masculine form for a child is important.
 - b. Adopted to Sonship

What about daughters? Why sonship?

Misogynistic

- We cannot bend the Bible to conform to our current culture.
- We must bend our culture to conform to the Bible.
- The use of gender specific words is sometimes words for mankind or people in general.
- Sometimes they are there to make a specific point.
- In this case the use of Sonship is there to make a specific point.

So... What is the point. It is about two things...

1. Adoption – and that in itself is powerful!
2. Sonship – and that in itself is powerful!
3. Son's were the ones in which the inheritance was passed down through.

Application

- This is not belittling women and girls – It is elevating women and girls.
- When we surrender to Christ, make him Lord of our lives we are **all promoted**.
- The slave becomes the head.
- The lowest becomes the greatest.

- The least graduates to become the highest.
- Laying our lives down for and to Jesus Christ LORDSHIP is a surrender
- – yes, It is a sacrifice – yes
- It is a picking up your cross and following Jesus – yes
- it is saying yes to his desires for our lives and no to our “Flesh” desires.
- However, the exchange rate of heaven is always lopsided in our favor.
- Every time you give something up to Christ what he gives you back is always better.

Illustration

- Jews did not adopt sons outside of their families, adoption was common among Roman families.
- Paul’s audience would have seen this take place in Galatia or elsewhere in the empire.
- One scholar explained that a Roman man could select a worthy adult male to become his successor.
- He might already have sons whom he did not trust.
- He could be a slave whom his master had chosen to reward for his loyalty and strength of character.
- This is very different from 21st-century laws and customs in North America.
- An American would typically adopt an infant or a child.

A modern parent’s last will and testament can stipulate that any person or group will benefit from his or her estate. That could include a distant female cousin, a charity, or a friend. In ancient Rome, however, one had to pass his wealth on to his son(s).

“When the adoption was legally approved, the adoptee would have **all his debts cancelled** and he would receive a new name.

He would be the legal son of his adoptive father and entitled to all the rights and benefits of a son.

A father could disown his natural-born son, but an adoption was irreversible”

Sonship came with responsibilities as well as privileges.

Citizenship, the right to a fair trial, the right to vote, and tax benefits were positives; the requirement to become involved in society — by voting, for example, or taking part in politics or business at some level — were responsibilities of citizenship acquired through adoption.

They applied only to males in first-century Rome.

- C. Paul enhances the attractiveness of exchanging slavery to sin for slavery to righteousness by observing that believers, though still slaves, do not receive a “spirit of slavery,” which results in relating to God from an attitude of fear.

1. Rather, they obtain a “spirit of adoption,” which prompts relating to God as “Abba” (“Father”).
- D. As son’s here we receive the “spirit of adoption.”
1. The word for “adoption” is used only by Paul in the New Testament (five times, three being in Romans)
 - 2. The Jews did not practice adoption.**
 3. Paul took the concept from Roman or Greek law in both of which adoption was important.
 4. It signifies being granted the full rights and privileges of sonship in a family to which one does not belong by nature.

Illustration

- The Roman church was made up of people who went to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost and were saved in the Revival immediately after the HS was poured out.
- So there were Jews and Gentiles. Roman were in this group.

Illustration

- This is one aspect of what it means to become a Christian
- The believer is admitted to the heavenly family, to which he has no rights of his own.
- But he is now admitted and can call God “Father”.

E. The word *Abba* is an Aramaic word meaning “Father”.

1. The word is from the babbling of a little child (like “papa”) and is the familiar term used in the home.
2. But the word certainly points to love and to intimacy.
3. The Jews would not address God in this familiar way, but when they prayed to him as “Father” they always added something like “in heaven” to avoid any impression of undue presumption.
4. In the Gospels Jesus constantly addresses God as “Father”, and in Gethsemane he has this doubled form, “Abba, Father” (Mark 14:36).
5. It is probable that the opening of the Lord’s Prayer in the language Jesus spoke would be this “Abba”; if so, Jesus was giving his followers the privilege of being in the heavenly family and of addressing God in this warm and familiar way.
6. As G. Schrenk says, “an everyday infant sound is applied without inhibition to God....
7. This basic word tells us that God is not a distant Ruler in transcendence but One who is intimately close.

- F. We should not overlook the fact that in this passage Paul puts the Father at the center.
1. The Spirit does not cause us to cry “I am God’s son”... but “**God is my Father.**”
 2. The focus is on God rather than on the son.
 3. It’s not about the son.
 4. The son is significant because of who his Father is.

G. The spirit they received brought about an adoption.

1. We have been adopted into another family.
2. We were **NOT BORN** into this family
3. We were chosen to be in this family – by the head of the family.
4. The head of the family chose us. The Father chose ME!
5. It wasn’t accidental it was purposeful.
6. God chose them intentionally.
7. They / We are adopted into sonship.

What kind of responsibilities and privileges come with adoption into sonship?

The Holy Spirit leads me to freedom.

The Holy Spirit connects me to a spiritual family.