

## Freedom

### Romans 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> 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.*” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup> 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.

**The last two weeks we have been digging deep into this passage.**

**First week we focused on how we can know the Holy Spirit is leading us.**

**When we know the character and nature of the Holy Spirit we will know if it is HIM who is leading us.**

**Last week**

**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;

**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.*”

### **Questions from last week**

Ladies – according to Romans 8 all believers are adopted into sonship.

Men – according to Romans 8 all believers are adopted into sonship.

The #1 rule in understanding the Bible...

- It always means what it always meant.

- It can never mean what it never meant.

So, what did Paul mean when he says that we have been adopted into sonship.

### **First who is he talking to?**

- He is talking to believers.
- **Men** and **women, boys** and **girls** who are followers of Jesus.

### **Second what is he telling them?**

- He uses a Roman reality to explain what happens when we follow Christ.
- What has Jesus done for us?
- We have to take our meaning from the original intent – right?
- So Romans 8 is saying that all those who are born-again, all those who are saved, all those who follow Christ have received something.
- All men who are born again
- All women who are born again
- All boys who are born again
- All girls who are born again have been adopted.
- This adoption is specific.
- We have been adopted into sonship.
- What does that mean?
- This is where context is soooo important to know.
- What were the ramifications of a first century man or boy that was adopted.

### **Illustration**

- Although Jews did not adopt sons outside of their families, adoption was common among Roman families.
- Paul uses a Roman concept to communicate to the Church in Rome.

### **Today a 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).**
- One scholar explained that a Roman man could select a worthy adult male to become his successor.
- He could have sons whom he did not trust.
- He could even 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.

**“When the adoption was legally approved, the adoptee would have...**

- **All his debts cancelled**
- 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.
- Which includes the inheritance of the father.
- A father could disown his natural-born son, **but an adoption was irreversible**”

**What evidence do we have that we are in fact God’s children and that we have been adopted into sonship?**

**I. The testimony of the Holy Spirit**

The witness of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit testifies on our behalf that we are God’s children.

**Vs. 16**

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

A. Set up

1. Let’s back up and notice Romans 8:16 because I really want you to experience the assurance that you are one of the children of God.
2. And Paul is quite aware that everybody in this room struggles with that assurance. Everybody does
3. You all have had experiences, highs and lows, throughout which you wonder if you are a child of God.
4. Paul would like to help you with that.
5. He writes Romans 8:16 to help you with that: “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs.”
6. If you belong to Christ, as Romans 8:9 says, then you have the Holy Spirit.
7. He who does not have the Spirit does not belong to Christ.
8. To belong to Jesus is to have the Holy Spirit.
9. What does he do for you once you have him?  
He testifies.  
What is he testifying to? That you are the child of God.  
That’s the reality of Romans 8:16.  
My question is, How does he do that? How does he do it for you?

10. The Holy Spirit is not testifying in you so that you would continue to say, “I don’t know how the Holy Spirit testifies.”
11. Isn’t the Bible wonderful?
12. It’s going to answer that question for you so that you can know:
13. “Oh, it is happening. I am his child because I know of the experience in [Romans 8:16](#).”
14. The Holy Spirit is testifying.” Let’s go back and see two ways that he does it.

### A. The Holy Spirit convicts me of sin.

#### Romans 8:13-14

<sup>13</sup> For 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.<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

1. When trusting in and leaning upon, by faith, the Holy Spirit, you declare war on the sins of your life.
  2. Then Paul explains why that is.
  3. So, one of the things the Spirit does to testify — that is, to give evidence — is a lot like what witnesses do in the courtroom.
  4. They give evidence whether somebody is guilty or not guilty.
  5. “I was there,” they say. “I saw this happen.
  6. This mark on my hand happened when I touched that, and I was there.
  7. I am evidence that can be used in this courtroom to settle this case.”
  8. That is what witnesses do.
  9. Now what is the Holy Spirit’s evidence? What is he testifying?
10. He is testifying by leading you, as it says in [Romans 8:14](#).
  11. If you are led by him, you’re in.
  12. If you are led by him, you are a child

One of the evidences that the Witness is giving in the courtroom of your heart is this:

- “I lead you.”

13. Where does he lead you? That is the connection between [Romans 8:13](#) and [Romans 8:14](#).

He leads you to kill sin:

but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

14. Therefore, the leading has to do with the killing.

### Illustration

- One of the experiences of the Holy Spirit in testifying that you are a child of God is that when sin happens in your life, you make war.
- **You hate it.**
- If you are **frustrated** and **angry** at the sin in your life right now... that is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- He is loud, witnessing right now in your heart that you hate what you did yesterday.
- You wish you **had not** done it.
- It **grieves** your heart that you spoke the way you did.  
That you clicked on that pornography.  
That you were dishonest in that transaction.
- It is grieving your heart right now.
- That is God at work in your life.
- That is the Holy Spirit testifying, **“You are mine.”**

### **B. The Holy Spirit makes us cry out to the Father.**

#### Romans 8:15

<sup>15</sup> 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.*”

#### Question - Where does this cry come from?

- It comes from the **Spirit** – Holy Spirit

1. By the Spirit we are crying, “*Abba, Father.*”

### Illustration

- Does your heart cry to God, “Father, my Father, my Authority, my sustainer, my Need-Meeter, my Father”?
- Now, you can program a computer to say those words — right?
- You can program a computer to say, “***Abba, Father.***”
- But it does not mean the computer is a child of God.
- So, words coming out of your mouth **are not the issue.**
- 2. **The key word is cry.**
  - a. By the Holy Spirit we cry.
  - b. Paul doesn’t use the word *cry* mechanically.

**When you cry, your heart goes up:**

“Father, I need you. Father, I am just a little child.  
I am helpless in this world. I need a heavenly Father.”

c. If that is the way your heart cries, that is the Holy Spirit.

**3. So, you can know.**

- a. He leads my heart to hate my sin, to make war on it, and to kill the deeds of the body, and by that he shows me that I belong to Jesus Christ.
- b. He wells up within me, creating a **sense of need**, a **sense of fragility**, a **sense of dependency**, a **sense of vulnerability**
- c. “I need you, my God, as Father. I am so much like an orphan.”

**4. Self-sufficient unbelieving people do not talk like that - Right??**

- a. The Holy Spirit humbles us to hate sin and to need a Father — that is his witness.

**He is witnessing by...**

- Awakening a **longing** for a father in God
- Awakening a **hatred for sin**, which opposes that longing.
- You can feel the work of the Holy Spirit.

5. One reason God gave us the Bible is because we do not know how to interpret what happens to us when we get saved.
  - a. We don't know what words to use or what name to use.
  - b. We do not know how to describe anything.
  - c. We do not know anything without the word.

**Romans 8:15**

the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father

- Is describing to you what is happening when you feel the need for a father and when you feel hatred for sin.
- That is the Holy Spirit testifying that you are the child of God.

**Application**

- **If that is you – you should REJOICE.**
- **If that is where you are today – you should be HAPPY about that!**

## II. Our inheritance from the Father

Through the adoption into sonship we receive the inheritance from the Father.

### Vs. 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.

#### A. As children we are heirs.

#### Illustration

- Being an heir is a wonderful thing.
- I heard of a man who died with a 5 million dollar fortune.
- When someone asked how he amassed that much money the answer was that he did it through hard work, perseverance, careful saving, frugal living, smart investing and then an uncle died and left him \$4,999,000.00 to put with the \$1,000.00 he had.
- It can be a real blessing to be an heir.
- This is never more true than when we realize what God has done for us in Christ.

#### Application

- The picture in Romans is similar on a spiritual plane.
- We were lost and wandering in this world penniless in our souls when Jesus found us, threw His arms around us and said, “All I have is yours.”
- When we accepted Him by faith, we received eternal life and all the benefits that go with.
- What does it mean for us to be **heirs of God and co-heirs of Christ**.

### Romans 8:17

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.

#### What is our inheritance?

#### B. Our inheritance is the world.

### Romans 4:13

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

1. To Abraham and his descendants God promises the world as a part of their inheritance.

### Question

- Do all you Gentiles qualify to be Abraham's offspring?

### Galatians 3:29

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

2. That is, if you belong to the Messiah, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.
3. It couldn't be clearer.
4. If you belong to Jesus, you are an heir of Abraham.
5. Abraham's heirs inherit the world.
6. Does it remind you of the Beatitudes?

### Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

### Application

- That's a pretty big inheritance.
- Are you scrounging?
- Are you at war with someone over an inheritance or a birthright.
- Let it go!
- They can take it from you but... You own the world.
- It's only a matter of time.

### Application

- When we get radically saved, we get radically changed with regard to stuff.
- We own stuff.
- The world says you have to have it now.
- The Bible says you get it later.
- Give it now. **Live to use stuff for people.**

### Matthew 6:19-21

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### Application

- Where your treasure is, there your heart will be forever — owning everything.
- The first answer to the question,
- **What's your inheritance?** *everything that God ever made is yours.*

### Psalm 24:1

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;

### What does God have?

- What does God own that he could put in the will for his children when his Son dies?
- Everything, the world and all it contains, the earth and those who live in it.
- These are breathtaking statements, and if we believe them everything would change.
- Everything would change.
- Everything you look at in this world and are envious or covetous over — it's yours.
- Just wait.
- Don't be greedy.

### Luke 12:15

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

### Application

- That means if you say to God, "I don't like your timing, and I want my inheritance now," you're like the prodigal son.
- "Give it now. I like the stuff. I want it now.
- I don't like your timing.
- I don't want to pass through the suffering on the way to the inheritance."
- That's not the Holy Spirit witnessing.
- The Holy Spirit says, "Father, I trust you.
- Lord Jesus, you're my king, I trust you.
- Whatever it takes.
- I want that inheritance.
- Whatever your timing, just bring me home."
- That's the way the Holy Spirit talks.

### **C. Our inheritance is God himself.**

**Revelation 21:3**

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

**D. Our inheritance is a new glorified body.****Romans 8:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.