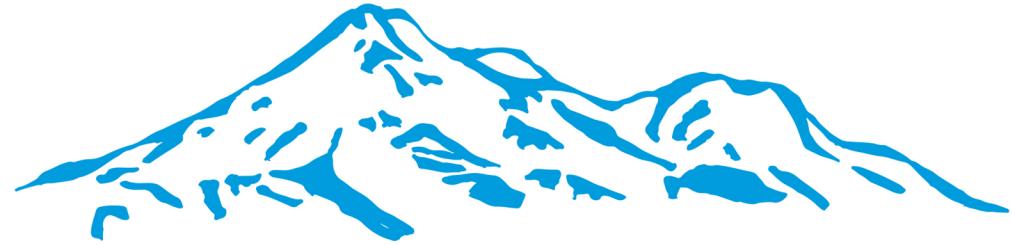


## Questions

1. Read Ephesians 1:4-5. What more do we learn about our adoption by God that should cause us to worship Him?
2. How should knowing that your unchangeable adopted status in God's family—of son or daughter—give you assurance?
3. How should your identity of "adopted child of God" motivate you towards conforming into the family image of God—Jesus Christ? (Consider how Peter uses it in 1 Pe. 1:14-15.) Does it? If not, why not?
4. How should knowing that we "have received the Spirit of adoption" (Rm. 8:15) move us towards a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father? How can you, and we together, take steps in strengthening our relationship with Him?
5. How can you be tempted to functionally return again to a spirit of fear with God? How should this passage encourage you otherwise?
6. How are you experiencing the Spirit's witness to the reality of your being a child of God? Take time in your groups to encourage one another with the evidences of the Spirit's work in one another.
7. Read Romans 8:17 and Hebrews 12:5-11. What more do we learn in the Hebrews passage about our need to suffer with Christ in order that we may also be glorified with him? What more do we learn about what it means to be a child of God? How should our suffering (discipline) be received by us as His children?



# THE BIBLE'S SUMMIT

— A Sermon Series on Romans 8 —

## Children of God

**Romans 8:14-17**

*Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor*

*March 5, 2023*

In Romans 8:14-17, Paul showcases 4 truths about our adoption as children of God, to motivate our pursuit of conformity to the family image of God.

In verse 12-17, Paul talks about the implications of being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. In verses 12-13, those indwelt with the Spirit are now at odds with their remaining sin. In verses 14-17, those led by the Spirit are children of God.

### **1) The Reality of Our Adoption (v.14)**

Being led by the Holy Spirit in sanctification confirms the new reality of the believer's relation to God, as sons of God.

In verse 14 Christians are identified as "sons of God", but in 15 it's "adoption as sons".

The reality of your identity—as a child of God—ought to motivate you to pursue sanctification—conformity into the family image of God.

The Holy Spirit's Witness to Our Adoption.

- Prayer (Rm 8:15)
- Killing our remaining sin (Rm 8:13)
- Bearing Fruit (Gal. 5:22-23)

## 2) The Intimacy from Our Adoption (v.15)

The Holy Spirit is the agent ("by whom") believer's experience intimacy with God. And this intimacy is expressed in terms of prayer—intimate communication—"we cry, 'Abba! Father!'".

## 4) The Inheritance from Our Adoption (v.17)

"Heirs of God" could mean heirs of what God had promised, but based on the Greek grammar it's more likely that Paul means, Christians inherit God himself.

Gaining the new heavens and the new earth is certainly an inheritance right, but the greatest inheritance gain of being God's adopted children is gaining God himself.

*"The suffering is the indispensable prelude to the glory."* – F.F. Bruce

## 3) The Witness to Our Adoption (v.16)

The Holy Spirit is not only instrumental in *making* us God's children, He also makes us *aware* that we are God's children.

Roman law required multiple witness to legalize an adoption. The dual testimony of the Spirit and the believer's own spirit are ample witness to God's adoption.