



How to Know You Belong to God (pt. 2)

Romans 8:14-17

II. A New Intimacy (vv. 15c-16)

A. They have _____ the Spirit of adoption (v. 15c)

1. No longer a _____ but a son
(Rom. 8:12-14; 6:17-18; 7:18, 24; Deut. 6:20-25; Ezek. 36:26-27; Jn. 8:35; Gal. 4:7; Heb. 2:14-15)
 - a) Flesh → obligation → _____ → death
 - b) Spirit → sonship → _____ → life
2. No longer living in fear but in _____
(2 Tim. 1:7; 1 Jn. 4:18; 2 Cor. 5:14)
3. Not a natural heir but an _____ heir
 - a) Moses — adoption by _____
(Ex. 2:1-10)
 - b) Esther — adoption by _____ love
(Esther 2:5-7)
 - c) Mephibosheth — adoption by _____
(2 Sam. 9:1-7)
4. Not deserving but made a son by _____ grace
 - a) Roman adoption: This is not _____ - class sonship (1 Cor. 1:26-29)

- b) From Israel the natural son to the _____ the adopted family (Ex. 4:22; Deut. 14:1; Isa. 43:6-7; Hos. 11:1; Rom. 9:4)
- c) Though Israel was God's son, Israel _____ the Father (Isa. 1:2; Jer. 31:32; Hos. 4:1)
- d) Israel's rejection _____ in their rejection of Christ (Jn. 1:11; Matt. 12:24, 46-50)
- e) Adoption becomes a _____ emphasis in the church (Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:5; 1 Pet. 2:9-10)

B. They cry out “_____! Father!” (v. 15d)

1. What does “_____” mean?
2. Where does this language come _____?
(Mk. 14:36; Gal. 4:6)
3. What would _____ have thought about this?
(Isa. 63:16; Mal. 2:10; Jn. 5:18)
4. Why does Paul use _____ words: “Abba! Father!”?
5. What does this tell us about the _____ life?
(Psa. 51, 103:13; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 8:28; Heb. 12:7)

C. They have _____ assurance (v. 16)

1. What Paul is _____ saying
2. “The Spirit Himself” — the _____ witness
3. _____ exactly does the Spirit bear witness?

- a) Through the _____
(Jn 6:37; 10:28; Matt. 24:13; Eph. 1:13-14;
1 Jn. 5:13)
- b) Through changed _____
(Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:22; Psa. 42:1)
- c) Through the _____ “Abba! Father!”

4. Why this witness matters so _____
(Rom. 8:17, 23, 26; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 4:30;
Heb. 10:22)

5. This witness is especially clear in _____
(Job 13:15; Psa. 73:26; Heb. 4:16; 1 Jn. 3:1)

TAKE HOME:

- What is the primary _____ of my obedience right now—fear of punishment or gratitude for adoption?
- When I sin or suffer, do I run toward God like a _____—or away from Him like a slave?
- What _____ do I see of the Spirit’s witness in my life—through the Word, through changed desires, and through Spirit-produced prayer?

Application Questions

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message in your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. What is the primary motivation for my obedience—fear of punishment or gratitude for adoption? (2 Tim. 1:7; 2 Cor. 5:14)
2. When I sin or suffer, do I run toward God like a child or away from Him like a slave? (Rom. 8:15; Heb. 4:16)
3. Do I see evidence of the Spirit’s witness in my life through changed desires and the cry “Abba, Father”? (Rom. 8:16; Gal. 4:6)
4. Am I living as if I am still under condemnation, or as someone set free in Christ? (Rom. 8:1; Jn. 8:36)
5. How does my prayer life reflect my view of God—as Father or as a distant judge? (Rom. 8:15; Matt. 6:9)
6. Where am I tempted to measure my status with God by my feelings or performance, rather than by His promise? (1 Jn. 5:13; Eph. 1:13)
7. When facing trials, do I sense the Spirit’s assurance that I am God’s child, even in weakness? (Rom. 8:17; 2 Cor. 12:9)
8. How can I show gratitude for my adoption by pursuing holiness and loving others as family? (Eph. 1:5; 1 Jn. 3:1)

“God does not merely pardon His people and leave them standing at the door. He brings them into His house, gives them His name, and bids them cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The child of God may tremble, but he never doubts that he belongs.”

-Charles Spurgeon