

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

**Romans 8:14-17**

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

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

1. No longer a slave but a son
  - a) Flesh → obligation → fear → death
  - b) Spirit → sonship → assurance → life
2. No longer living in fear but in gratitude

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

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

3. Not a natural heir but an *adopted* heir

- a) Moses — adoption by *providence*
- b) Esther — adoption by *steadfast* love
- c) Mephibosheth — adoption by *grace*

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

- A. They have received the Spirit of adoption (v. 15c)
  - 4. Not deserving but made a son by divine grace
    - a) Roman adoption: This is not second-class sonship
    - b) From Israel the natural son to the church the adopted family
    - c) Though Israel was God's son, Israel rejected the Father
    - d) Israel's rejection climaxes in their rejection of Christ
    - e) Adoption becomes a New Covenant emphasis in the church

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

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

1. What does “**Abba**” mean?
2. Where does this language come **from**?
3. What would **Jews** have thought about this?
4. Why does Paul use **two** words: “Abba! Father!”?
5. What does this tell us about the **Christian** life?

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

### C. They have *internal* assurance (v. 16)

1. What Paul is *not* saying
2. “The Spirit Himself” — the *divine* witness
3. *How* exactly does the Spirit bear witness?
  - a) Through the *Word*
  - b) Through changed *desires*
  - c) Through the *cry* “Abba! Father!”

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

- C. They have *internal* assurance (v. 16)
  - 4. Why this witness matters so *deeply*
  - 5. This witness is especially clear in *trials*

# TAKE HOME:

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