

# **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?