**Romans 8:14-17**

Introduction

This passage is about our roots—who we are.

The Passage

I. We are children of God (v. 14)

II. How we came to be children: The Spirit’s work (v. 15-16)

A. When the Holy Spirit came into your life, the Spirit gave you confidence and assurance by making you an adopted child of God

1. The fear = fear of condemnation and judgment. But we no longer need to be slaves to that kind of fear

 2. The Spirit of sonship/adoption: the Spirit bestows on us adoption into God’s family

a. 1st century Roman adoption: a wealthy landowner without a son would look for someone to take over the family business and inherit it someday (often one of his servants). Adoption would take place when the person was in his twenties or thirties. The servant now had all the status, privileges, and rights of a son.

b. That is the picture Paul has in mind. At conversion, the Holy Spirit adopted us into God’s family and gave us all the rights, privileges, and status of God’s children.

c. v. 23: makes adoption sound like a future reality. So there’s an already-not yet aspect to our adoption. It has begun but it has not yet been fully consummated.

d. Ephesians 1:4-5: before the creation of the world, God predestined us to be adopted as his children. So our adoption has its roots in eternity past, has its present reality, and will be fully consummated at the 2nd coming of Christ.

 3. Our privileges as children of God

a. The Holy Spirit enables us to cry out “Abba Father.” We have a relationship with God that is one of intimacy and closeness.

b. Example: Brian’s relationship with his own father.

B. Father’s Day application

1. For those of you who had a great relationship with your father, thank God for that and for the fact that it makes it easier for you to relate to God as a loving father.

2. For those of you who did not have a great father, God wants to fill the gaps for you and be the Father you never had.

3. For those of you fathers and grandfathers, we can be the kind of fathers and grandfathers that will make it a lot easier for our children and grandchildren to relate to God as Father in a healthy and loving way.

III. The results of being children of God: we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (v. 17)

 A. We’ll receive all that Christ receives

 We will have a resurrection body like his

 We will rule and reign with him in the recreated heaven and earth

 B. Inheritance is such a great picture of grace

1. You do nothing to earn your inheritance, you simply happened to be born into the family.

 2. So it is with God

 C. “If indeed we share in his sufferings”

1. The pathway to our glorious inheritance goes through the valley of suffering. There is no way around that.

2. Four reminders about suffering

a. Suffering is not normally a result of God punishing or discipling us (although it sometimes is). It’s simply the result of living in a fallen world.

 b. Suffering is just temporary

 c. Suffering is very real

 d. God has built suffering to build our character

3. In the midst of suffering, remember your roots; remember who you are: A child of the living God.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What was the most helpful or compelling idea from Sunday’s message?

2. What boundaries (circumstantial, emotional, experiences, etc.) make it hard for you to approach God as your loving heavenly Father? What good things has God used to help you along in that journey?

3. As you consider the fact that because we are God’s children we are also heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, what specific aspect of that reality hit you this week as you heard Sunday’s message?

4. What is the suffering you are having to endure at this time in your life and how is God working in your life in the midst of that suffering?