

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
The Children of God
Romans 8:12-27

Last time...the triumphant joy of every follower of Jesus Christ

This doctrinal masterpiece of a letter to the saints in Rome is reaching a crescendo

Rom 1:16-17

Rom 3:21-22a

Heb 12:2

Gal 2:16

Jesus is the author/beginning and finisher/end of faith
Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Rom 4:3, 20-22

Rom 5:1, 15-21

James 3:18

the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace

Rom 6:11, 14, 22

Rom 7:14, 24-25

Rom, 8:1, 6-9a

Not by our works but by the finished work of Jesus Christ,
Not by our righteousness but by the righteousness of Jesus Christ,
we are a different people, the people of God

Spiritually minded, we are in our right minds, we have mental health
So very different than the people of this world (man-kind), we (Jesus-kind)
are not confused about

- origins...In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth
not by chance and evolution over ever-expanding billions of years
and since we were created by a Creator, our lives have meaning and a purpose
- gender identity...male and female He created them
heterosexual...to be fruitful and multiply
not homosexual, transexual, bisexual, binary, non-binary,
not whatever the unregenerate so choose to identify as
- who we are...the children of the Living God
not of this world

This time...more about who we are
We continue in Rom 8

v12-13 Since we are

- in Christ, in Whom is Life and righteousness and salvation
- indwelt by the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ
- dead to sin and alive unto God
- those who walk after/following the Spirit of God
- spiritually minded
- pleasing to God

we are not indebted to

- the flesh...in which there is no good (Rom 7:18)
- to live after the flesh...according to the insatiable lusts of the flesh

We owe the flesh and the world...nothing!

To live as man-kind comes into the world...

with a sin nature, born-dead-in-sin, born with a dead spirit,
pursuing the lusts of the flesh with a carnal mind (v6a, mental illness),
a mind longing for the things of this world,
ends in eternal death

James 1:15 when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death

But, to live as Jesus-kind...

born-again of the Spirit of God, having a regenerated/enlivened spirit,
alive unto God with a spiritual mind (v6b, mental health),
a mind for the things of God,
is life

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Col 3:2 Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth

v14 All who are now spiritually minded and no longer carnally minded, led by the Holy Spirit out of the darkness of this world and into the Light of the kingdom of God, are the sons/children of God

John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

News Flash: NOT all people are children of God!
Most are man-kind, still dead in sin
Few are Jesus-kind, dead to sin and alive unto God

Red: I'm going to heaven.

Jim: Have you confessed Jesus as your Lord?

Red: I don't need to. I'm a good person, I've done a lot of favors for a lot of people.

v15 2 Tim 1:7, received from our Father which is in heaven

John 20:17 **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

We are the sons of God because our relationship with God has changed...
by grace thru faith

No longer under the Law, we no longer have a legal relationship with God the Judge
Now under grace, we have a loving relationship with God the Father...adopted children
loved by and loving our Abba Father, our "Dad" or "Daddy"

The Law of God...which is holy and just and good...is now written on our hearts
Jer 31:33 ...I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The righteousness of the Law is fulfilled in us (v4) who are in Jesus and Jesus in us
(John 17)

The righteousness of God which is by faith is the basis for our transformed relationship
with God

How do we know we are the children of God?

v16 What is our identity in heaven and on earth, both now and forever?

Children of God

Says who?

God Himself

The Holy Spirit **H**imself bears witness, testifies to our quickened/enlivened spirit,
of this truth:

we are the children of God...by grace thru faith in what He has done to
reconcile us to Himself

v17 We are children of God
We have been adopted by the Father/Daddy into His Family

Adopted children have all the same rights as “natural children”
As the “natural children” have an inheritance, so do the adopted children –
the same inheritance

Our Bridegroom is The Only Begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ
We share in His inheritance

Prov 8:17-21 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honour *are* with me; *yea*, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit *is* better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance
[things of the next world, NOT things of this world which is the error of the Prosperity Gospel];
and I will fill their treasures.

So...we are

- adopted children of God
- the heirs of God
- joint-heirs with Jesus Christ

Does that bend and then blow your mind?
It does mine!

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

How do we know we are

- adopted of God
- the heirs of God
- joint-heirs with Jesus Christ?

First, by suffering as Jesus suffered...pain

Being persecuted and hated and reviled by the world in this mortal body

Matt 5:9-12

Luke 20:35-36

they which shall be **accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead**, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: **Neither can they die any more**: for they are equal unto the angels; and are **the children of God**, being the **children of the resurrection**

John 17:14

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Acts 5:40-42

when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Phil 3:8-10

Phil 1:29

Second, by being exalted as Jesus was exalted (Resurrection in a glorified body)...gain

Matt 23:12

whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Matt 16:25

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Now the Apostle Paul weighs in with an inspired testimony

v18 In his personal walk with the Lord in the Light after wandering in the darkness of religion for so long, Paul reasoned these things to be utterly incomparable:

On the one hand: the suffering/hardships of this present time, this present world

2 Cor 11:23-28

2 Cor 4:5-7, 14, 17

On the other hand: the glory that awaits the children of God

2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18

2 Cor 12:2-4 caught up to Paradise...unspeakable

Ps 73:3, 17 envious of the foolish that prosper in this world...until I went into the sanctuary of God and understood their end

Guard/protect/keep the healthy perspective of Rom 8:18 and Ps 73!

v19-21 We, the children of God, are not the only ones suffering in this cursed and fallen world

All of creation (Gen 1-2) is suffering by reason of the sin of Adam and Eve...
the fall from God-kind to man-kind

- through the offense of one many be dead (Ch 5:15)
- the judgment by one that sinned was to condemnation (Ch 5:16)
- by one man's offense death reigned (Ch 5:17)
- by one man's disobedience all were made sinners (Ch 5:19)

And all creation has

- hope...anticipation, a confident expectation
 - of newness, being delivered/liberated from the bondage of corruption (death that entered the world with the sin of one/man/Adam)
 - all living creatures die
 - enmity/hostility and fear among living creatures ("food chain")
 - but newness is coming!

Is 65:25a The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock

Is 11:6-8 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and
the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and
the calf and the young lion and the fatling
together; and a little child shall lead them.
And the cow and the bear shall feed; their
young ones shall lie down together: and the
lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the
sucking child shall play on the hole of the
asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand
on the cockatrice' den.

- an intense expectation as it awaits/looks for the manifestation, appearing of, the children of God...man-kind (death) made Jesus-kind (Life)
 - delivered into the glorious liberty, liberation (from death) of the children of God
 - the gift of God's grace which is by one Man, Jesus Christ, that has abounded to many (Ch 5:15)
 - the free gift of many offenses unto justification by one Man (Ch 5:16)
 - the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ (Ch 5:17)
 - by the obedience of one Man shall many be made righteous (Ch 5:19)

Some day...the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands. (Is 55:12)

v22-23 We, the children of God, know that all of creation is groaning/moaning/howling/roaring with birth pangs in these days of darkness and death when

- all men that shall live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution
- good is called evil and evil is called good
- evil men and seducers grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived
- strife and confusion and every evil is evident

All of creation is groaning/moaning/howling/roaring for the newness of life that is coming

And we are groaning/moaning too, sighing within ourselves as we walk now in the newness of life (Rom 6:4, life of the Spirit) while we wait for the adoption and redemption of our glorified bodies unstained by sin and uncorruptible by death

Ps 119:81 My soul fainteth for thy salvation: *but* I hope in thy Word.

1 Cor 15:42-49

Groaning all the while we are trapped in these mortal bodies plagued with gross imperfection

2 Cor 4:18 – 5:8

our hope in the groaning

v24-25 In a world filled with madness and hopelessness, the children of God have hope! Not empty wishful thinking like the world has, but a confident expectation that the God who cannot lie and cannot fail will do what He has said He will do

We are saved/protected against the onslaught of the devil, the flesh, and the world by hope...

the certainty of John 14:1-3

the purifying of 1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Heb 11:1

That which is seen is reality
Hope “is not yet” reality so it is unseen

While we wait for that which we do not yet see, our soon-coming reality,

Titus 2:11-14

we wait patiently...with cheerful endurance

knowing

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 5:7-11

And while we wait...

v26-27 ...the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Helper and Guide, helps our weaknesses (the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak!) as we walk in the newness of life in these mortal bodies plagued with gross imperfection

Many times we don't know how to pray in these days of waiting

- the rampant shedding of innocent blood...killing babies, shooting children
- the lawlessness and senseless violence
- human love growing cold
- racial tensions
- the hypocrisies upon hypocrisies and deceptions upon deceptions of the ruling class enriching themselves rather than serving others
- famines/shortages and pestilence and wars and rumors of war

But...the all-knowing Spirit of God that knows the mind of God and the will of God does know how to pray!

So He intercedes for us!

Can you even imagine: The God the Holy Spirit praying to God the Father... for you and me?!

The Holy Spirit sighs in "unspeakable" ways...thoughts and words that human languages fail to capture (2 Cor 12:2-4)

Praying without ceasing!

Praying with perfect knowledge of our hearts and God's heart!

Praying with perfect knowledge of the will of the Father!

Praying with the perfect love of Abba Father!

Praying for the glory of God the Father and God the Son!

Praying in our best interest!

Perfect prayer...God praying for us!

Application/Exhortation

Be sure you know your identity in heaven and on earth, now and forever!

- adopted children of God
- children of light (Luke 16:8)
- the heirs of God
- joint-heirs with Jesus Christ?

I am not a brute beast (e.g. cow), so I am not to live like a brute beast (cow)

I am a child of God, so I am to live like a child of God

We children of God are strangers and pilgrims in this world, heirs of far more glorious substance

We are citizens of the kingdom of God, which is NOT of this world (John 18:36)

So we are not to live like the citizens of this world...

who lust for the things of this world that will stay in this world and burn up with this world

who will perish unless they repent and receive God's gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus...

but rather to see/think/speak as does our Daddy as long as we are strangers in this world

Rom 12:2

In the nation in which we have been planted, the State has for the past 60 years branded the Church as an enemy of the State, especially Bible-believing evangelicals that do not compromise on the Word of God and live according to a Higher Law than the law of the land

Be that as it may, we make known our identity before God and man...and why that is so – Jesus Christ and Him crucified

1 Cor 15:3-4

Eph 2:8-9

2 Cor 5:17, 21

Acts 5:42

In the world that hates you,

1. bear the Family resemblance (Light) for all to see and hear

When the world beats you down, the Lord lifts your head and builds you up

Ps 31:24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Ps 42:11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God.

Be a vessel of Light!

2. share the blessed hope you have with those not in their right mind who are hopeless

Prov 11:7 When a wicked man dieth, *his* expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust *men* perisheth.

But God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked
He desires them to repent and be saved and come to the knowledge of the
truth...be in their right mind and be adopted into His Family, too!

Be a messenger of hope!

Be who you are for all to see – a child of the Living God!