

The Glorious Gift of Adoption
Romans 8:14 – 17

Review/Introduction:

A. Justification Review

- We earn the wrath of God – eternal wrath
- God saves us
 - entirely by grace (teased out in Romans 4-6)

B. Introduction: Our salvation story cannot be told entirely within the narrative of a courtroom. As we examine the message of Romans 8:14-17, we see that can be described with a different narrative: the narrative of adoption.

Summary: The doctrine of adoption: Act of God whereby he makes us members of his family...

- * How is this possible?
- * What does this mean for us?
- * What will this mean for us?

To feel the weight of this picture, we must step back once again and remember where the story always begins...

I. Our Squalid State (The Effects of the Fall) (Rom. 1:18-32, 3:10-18, etc)

A. Our “Dilapidated Home” (Eph. 2:1-3, Rom. 1:18-32): The experience of life in a fallen world...

- The world is, as a result of the Fall, a cold and often times uncaring place
- Life after the Fall can be described as chaotic as humanity desperately attempts to replace God with countless flawed options that only bring further suffering and confusion.

B. Our Character (not any better) (Rom. 3:10-18)

- The effects of the Fall are not limited to the world around us. Rather, they also can be seen within our own wicked nature.

C. Our Future: Hopeless (Rom. 3:19-20)

- When confronted with the wickedness of the world around us and the wickedness within, one’s outlook of the future is bleak and entirely without hope...

Russell Moore Adopted for Life Quote: “Why is it so quiet...?” (Experience in an orphanage)

II. Our New Birth (Romans 8:14-15) (works of the Spirit)

A. Spirit Induced Terror (Familiar Fear) (Ecc. 3:11)

- i. Fear of Death (Universal Fear) (fear of death, uncertainty, etc)

- ii. Fear of Justice (Acts 2:37, Galatians 3-4, Is. 6:5)
 - 1) Confronted with Holiness (Is. 6:5)
 - Here one sees God and reflects on their own unworthiness...(sin/inadequacy) (Galatians, Mark, etc)
 - 2) Confronted with the Justice of Wrath (Mt. Sinai, Hebrews 10, etc)

Summary: The effect of the Law (Galatians overview)

- The Law was enough to awaken the conscience to their need of something greater. It was enough to show the people of God that they could never possibly earn God's favor by their own deeds.
- Seeing this reality is ultimately a gift of the Spirit, as it forces us to humbly seek God.

B. Spirit induced Intimacy

- i. God's Activity (means of intimacy): Salvation/Security
 - 1) Christ (review): Propitiation (atoning blood of Jesus)
 - Through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is possible to be made clean before God. This work alone, however, is not enough to save us. We also need the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2) Holy Spirit (brief overview) (Jn. 3:3-8, I Cor. 2:14-15, Eph. 1)
 - a. Causes us to see
 - b. Causes us to understand
 - c. Causes us to come/be reborn
 - Language of "reborn" (Jn. 3:3-8, John 1:12, Jer. 32:38)
 - * This has been the constant hope/promise (but not fully realized until Christ)
- ii. Man's Response: Instinctual Cry (Abba, Father!)
 - a. Cry of Familiarity ("Daddy")
 - God is not a distant Judge...he is your nearby loving father...
 - But this is not some cry of a toddler who has bumped his head...
 - b. Cry for Deliverance (Mark 14:36, Hebrews 5:7)
 - this is the cry of Jesus in the Garden
 - this is instinctual, guttural response driven out by the Spirit...

Summary: I trust many of us in here have experienced that cry when confronted with our sin or when confronted with the wickedness of the world around us. At that moment we, as a result of our new relationship as adopted sons, cry out to a Father who loves us & who cares for us. And as we do, we bear testimony not just of a present reality...but a future promise...

Transition: As precious as this cry is, it does not yet speak to the reason why we can maintain complete confidence in our ongoing relationship with God. For that confidence, we must consider the gift of inheritance that comes with our adoption in Jesus Christ.

III. Our New Life (Rom. 3:17, Eph. 1:13-14): The Inheritance

- A. On this Side of Eternity: Kingdom Preparation (discipline, growth, etc)
 - i. Peace/Access
 - The Holy Spirit who indwells you...He is God
 - ii. Growth (suffering, discipline, etc)
 - iii. New Family (side benefit) (Galatians)
 - We do not face this process alone. Instead, every individual who professes faith in Christ is your brother/sister. This is why it is vital to be an active part within your Christian community.

- B. In Eternity Future: Kingdom Home (John 14:1-3, Romans 8:23, Matthew 25:34, etc)
 - i. Established By Christ
 - ii. Guaranteed by Adoption (Eph. 1:13-14, Romans 8:23, etc)
 - a. Future Aspect of Adoption
 - b. Another role of the Holy Spirit (He is the down payment)

* How can you be certain that you will persevere? Because GOD HAS ADOPTED YOU!

Transition: This is so important to remember..."as long as our bodies are dying, it sure looks like we're orphans still. Yet we know that we're children by faith, not by sight."

IV. Conclusion/Application

- A. Unbelievers: Open your eyes
 - i. Be appalled by sin
 - ii. Be terrified by judgment
 - iii. Be awestruck by the love of Christ

- B. Believers: Re-open your eyes
 - i. Acknowledge the death that surrounds you (it should bother you)
 - ii. Remember your adoption
 - iii. Look forward to future home
 - iv. As we wait...let us all unashamedly cry out as one unified family