

Orphan Sunday 2018

Romans 8.13-17

Raise the flag and rally the troops – not because it's a cause we're behind but because it's personal to us (but why is it personal?)

God adopts children

- Legally – the payment has been made
 - The disconnection has happened because of sin
 - But now, no condemnation (v.1) – both the legal standing of forgiveness and the freedom from shame
 - But now, set free from the system (v.2)
 - But now, requirements have been met (v.3-4)
 - All of this happens “in Christ” – there is no option available
- Relationally – the pursuit continues
 - We are now “in Christ,” because God “sent His Son” and we walk by the Spirit
 - He has promised that nothing separates us from Him (v.35-39)

God sticks with them (because having kids is hard)

- As they fight sin, He leads them (v.13-14)
 - He leads them away from sin and toward Himself
- As they feel fear, He prompts them (v.15)
 - Am I as bad as “they” say I am?
 - What if He finds out about _____?
 - Will love me less than *the others* (those who grew up around Him)?
 - At some point will He get tired of me?
- As they face suffering, He reminds them (v.16-17)
 - Circumstances don't change identity

The love of the Father is reflected in the love of His family (1 John 4.7-11)

- “Ought” – not obligation but normal and natural and best
- Kyle / Kacee / Rowan

Applying this to foster care and orphan care

- Celebrate
- Shoulder the Burden with families
- Step into the process

Questions for Discussion

1. When you hear the phrase “spirit of adoption” or the word “adoption,” what is the first thing that pops into your mind? What experience or exposure have you had to the world of adoption and foster care? What have you seen and learned that has impacted you?
2. In the sermon, we stated there were two sides to adoption: legal and relational. When it comes to our adoption from God, which do you have tendency to lean on more? (“I’m most grateful that I’m forgiven” or “I’m most grateful God has never left me” for example). Why do you think that is?
3. What’s the hardest thing you’re facing in parenting right now (if you are parents)? What’s the hardest thing your Heavenly Father is facing with you right now? How does the latter shape the former?
4. If your life was on video right now, which struggle would people see most regularly pop up: fighting sin (either winning or losing), feeling fear, or facing struggle / hardship? What does God say in Romans 8 to each of those? How does (or should) that change your way of thinking about it?
5. What part of orphan care are you currently involved in? What one step do you need to take to keep in step with what God has called you to? What is one practical way you can shoulder a burden for a foster or adoptive / adopting family?