

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *In The Grip of God's Grace*

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

### **Romans 8:14-17 - "Adopted into God's Family"**

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

In Romans 8 we are learning about the new creation we are in Christ:

1. We have a new Position - 'In Christ Jesus' (vs. 1)
2. We have a new Life – "In the Spirit' (vs. 13)

Today, we learn that:

3. We have a New Relationship (vs. 14-17)

*Romans 8:14-17, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."*

4. We are adopted into God's family (vs. 15)

*Romans 8:15, "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."*

You say, 'John, I thought we came into God's family by being born into it?'

That's correct – In John 3:7 Jesus tells us that, "...Ye must be born again." It's called 'Regeneration' – it's the receiving of new life or a new nature. Paul however, clearly teaches, for the first time in Romans, that all Christians are adopted into God's family. It's the receiving of a new status.

As a Christian I am a member of the family of God.

Notice:

- (vs. 14) – *we are the sons of God*
- (vs. 15) – *we cry, Abba, Father.*
- (vs. 16) – *we are the children of God*

- (vs. 17) – *if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;*

In our text today, I want to look at five benefits, or blessings, of being a member of God's family.

## I. Freedom (vs. 14)

Romans 8:14, *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

God's sons and daughters are being led by the Spirit.

Paul is not talking about some super saints, being led by the Spirit, he's talking about all the saints! – It's true of all God's people.

It's the mark of a true Christian.

True Christians are literally, 'being led' – it's in the present tense.

Also, its, *"sons of God"* - Greek – "huios" - a child mature enough to take on adult family privileges and responsibilities.

Illustration: after birth a baby doesn't enjoy much freedom (they are: wrapped up, in a crib, play pen – a juvenile jail)

As adult sons of God we are being led by God's Spirit.

As a foot note: remember that not everyone is a member of God's family – only those who are led by God's Spirit.

How does God's Spirit lead us?

### 1. He renews our minds by the Word of God

Romans 12:1-2, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

### 2. He stirs our hearts

The Holy Spirit stirs our hearts to love God – note: *"Abba, Father"*

Galatians 4:6, *"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."*

Ask yourself, do I love God and desire to please Him?

### 3. He directs our wills

The Holy Spirit leads us by redirecting and strengthening our wills.

*Philippians 2:12-13, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."*

God's Spirit gives us a singleness of purpose to do His will.

Has your will been redirected by God's Spirit?

- Things you once loved you now hate
- Things you once hated you now love

## II. Confidence (vs. 15)

*Romans 8:15, "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."*

Not only are we lead by the Spirit are also loved by the Father.

God's children don't need to fear – why?

Because we are the sons not slaves

### 1. *We have received the Spirit of adoption*

The word 'adoption', is only used by Paul in the New Testament five times, three are found in Romans, and the other two are in Galatians and Ephesians. It's not mentioned in the Old Testament because the Jews didn't practice it.

Paul took the idea from Roman law.

He was writing to Romans who would understand.

The idea of adoption signified being granted the full rights and privileges of sonship in a family to which one does not belong by nature.

This is exactly what happened to you at the time of your salvation.

All Christians, no matter how long they have been saved or what their experience, have the same standing – as an adult son.

As adopted sons our new standing, or status, means a new relationship.

We by the Holy Spirit “...crying, *Abba, Father.*”

‘Abba’ is Aramaic; it’s an intimate form of the word ‘Father’ – “Daddy”, “Papa”.

It was first and only used by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and during the ‘Lord’s Prayer’.

It’s not a reasoned cry, but a reflexive one.

God who is infinitely high is also intimately nigh.

Many have never known an earthly father!

It’s the key to our personal enjoyment of our relationship with God.

### III. Assurance (vs. 16) – The Spirit working – “Blessed Assurance”

Romans 8:16, *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”*

Assurance is so important!

How can we have Assurance?

#### 1. The Word of God

1 John 5:13, *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”*

#### 2. The Work of God the Son

1 John 5:11, *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”*

John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

#### 3. The Witness of God the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:16, *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"*

#### IV. Inheritance (vs. 17a) – Rich in Christ

Romans 8:17a, *"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..."*

A) Adoption into God's family brings privileges that boggle the mind.

B) We are "...heirs of God, ..."

An heir inherits his Fathers estate.

All the father has is ours.

Ephesians 1:3, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"*

For now and eternity – Heaven

1 Peter 1:3-5, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

1 Peter 1:6-8, *"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"*

C) We are "...joint-heirs with Christ..."

At the second coming we will reign with Him.

#### V. Suffering (vs. 17b) – Glorified together

Romans 8:17b, *"...if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."*

"If" is 'since' – it is the privilege of every child of God to suffer for His name.

1 Peter 4:13, *"But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."*

John 16:33, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*

Why?

1. To test the reality of our faith
2. Suffering strengthens our faith
3. Suffering prepares us to be part of the glory that is yet to be revealed

Suffering is the path to glory (vs. 18-19)

Notice Jesus prayer in, John 17:22-29, *"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."*

### **Five Marks of a Child of God**

1. Freedom – they are being lead by the Spirit of God
2. Confidence – they aren't afraid – they can speak to their 'Abba Father'
3. Assurance – they know that they are God's children

Romans 8:16, *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"*

4. Inheritance – they enjoy their blessings in Christ now and look forward to their eternal rewards.

The Holy Spirit is the down payment

5. Suffering – this proves the reality of their faith, strengthens their faith, and prepares them for glory.

Three ways this passage can apply to you:

- Confirm you are God's child
- You are God's child but have slipped away
- You are not one of God's children