

# We are the Children of God

*Romans 8:12* Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, **not to the flesh**, to live after the flesh. *13* For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye **through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.** *14* For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the **sons of God.** *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. *16* The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: *17* 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.

- This passage is written to and about believers. Those that have placed their trust in the Lord Jesus and what He did on the cross of Calvary
- You should in no way think that this applies to everyone
- It may not apply to you or someone that you love
- Use these same points to check out your salvation and be sure that God has done a work in you

- Remember that there are 2 families, 2 Adams, and you are part of one or the other!
  - We have left one family for another or actually He has taken us from one and placed us in another
  - We can have victory through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives
1. We owe nothing to the flesh **8:12** **Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.**
    - a. Our old man, who we were in Adam, was crucified with Christ
    - b. We have no duty, responsibility, obligation, or debt that to our old sinful human nature to live according to those same principles
    - c. The flesh only brought us death and separation from God
    - d. We have no responsibilities or duties to our previous family, Adam
  2. We have victory by the work of the Spirit in our lives **13** **For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**

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

- a. We are free to choose to live a holy life
  - i. We yield ourselves servants to whom we choose and we choose Jesus
  - ii. We know that the flesh, the rebellion against God, only brought death
  - iii. As we surrender and submit to the Holy Spirit and His work in us we will mortify or put to death our old way of living
- b. The deeds or doings of the body are naturally selfish and sensual
  - i. If sin is your lifestyle you should **doubt your own salvation** 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye **through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**
  - ii. Born again people have been changed
  - iii. It is one thing to fall into sin and another to live there
- c. How do we **kill the deeds of the body**
  - i. We recognize the presence of sin
    - 1. If we do not recognize our sin it will become a destructive force

2. Sin disguises itself so we pray [Psalm 139:23](#) **Search me, O God,** and know my heart: **Try me, and know my thoughts:** [24](#) And **see if there be any wicked way** in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

ii. We **fix our hearts on the Lord**

1. There is not a series of do's and don'ts that will give you victory

2. It is God working in your life

3. Be careful to realize that no system will give you victory

4. No special manifestation of the Holy Spirit will do it

5. It will be a daily loving Him and spending time in His presence

6. Remember **Dagon the false god** that fell on his face in the presence of the ark.

7. Sin will not be able to stand if you will stay in the presence of God

iii. We spend time in the Word of God

iv. We spend time with God in prayer

v. Maintain a **sensitivity to the Holy Spirit** and the Word of God to obey as He speaks to you

d. We have the power of God to have victory in our lives

- i. It is the power of the Holy Spirit not us and our effort
  - ii. We have spiritual weapons **II Corinthians 10:4** (For the **weapons of our warfare** are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) **5 Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**
- e. We are being led by the Spirit of God **Proverbs 3:5** **Trust** in the Lord with all thine heart; And **lean not** unto thine own understanding. **6** In all thy ways **acknowledge him**, And **he shall direct thy paths.**
- Psalm 25:4** **Shew me** thy ways, O Lord; **teach me** thy paths. **5** **Lead me** in thy truth, and **teach me**: For thou *art* the God of my salvation; On thee do I wait all the day.
- Psalm 143:10** **Teach me** to do thy will; for thou *art* my God: Thy spirit *is* good; **lead me** into the land of uprightness.
- i. He leads us by causing us to understand His Word
  - ii. He places a desire in us to do right, to obey Him
- You are not obligated, indebted to, a servant to your

own sinful life and flesh

3. We have the spirit of sons not slaves **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.

a. We have an intimate and permanent relationship to God as His child

b. The picture of a Roman adoption

i. There is a change of family

1. The adopted person loses all rights to his old family

2. The adopted person gains all the rights of the new family

3. Legally he got a new father

4. He becomes heir to his new father's estate

5. Legally his old life was wiped out, debts cancelled.

ii. He is a new person entering a new life and the past is not part of his life now

iii. The adoption process was carried out in front of witnesses and was legally binding

c. Biblical adoptions

i. **Moses** rescued and adopted in mercy

1. Got a new family
2. Got new resources
3. Got new opportunities

ii. **Mephiboseheth** was adopted by King David

1. He was Jonathan's son and grandson to Saul
2. He was cripple and unable to offer anything to David
3. David sought him out and rescued him from his undesirable life and conditions
4. David returned him all his lands
5. He invited him to eat at his table

d. This relationship is of intimacy, tenderness, dependence, no fear, no anxiety-he is a son and cries out **Abba**

**Father-like daddy**

e. We do not live in fear or slavery like we did before

II Timothy 1:7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear;** but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

I John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because **fear hath torment.** He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

i. The law brought fear

ii. Death brought fear

iii. Judgment brought fear

iv. Jesus brought freedom and victory from all of these

4. We have the witness of the Spirit **16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit**, that we are the children of God: **17 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.
- a. The Spirit bears witness with our spirit **I John 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us,** God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.
- i. It is the Spirit that leads us into holiness, makes us have a desire to do right
  - ii. The Spirit replaces our fear with freedom and love
  - iii. He gives us desires to pray
- b. The Spirit makes it clear to us that we are the children of God
- c. We are also heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ
- d. We would rather suffer with Him than be back where we were before Christ **Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of**



Pharaoh's daughter; **25 Choosing rather** to suffer **affliction** with the people of God, than to **enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season**; **26** Esteeming the **reproach of Christ greater riches** than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

- You owe nothing to the flesh, your past, your old way of living
- It has only brought you fear, pain, and suffering
- These verses are good to check out the work of grace in our life. If you have not found these things to be true in you then today you should trust Christ
- Know that you choose to serve and honor the Lord or not
- We should be extremely happy and blessed that He has given us the spirit of adoption-that knowing what Jesus has done in our lives
- Do you have the witness of the Spirit?
- Do you prefer Jesus over all else?