

Practical Religion
LESSON 13: HEIRS OF GOD

We are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ. (Ro. 8:16, 17)

I. **Introduction: The Best Inheritance**

- a. The inheritance of Christ is the only inheritance *really worth having*.
- b. The inheritance of Christ is the only inheritance that is *kept forever*.
- c. The inheritance of Christ is the only inheritance *within everyone's reach*.

II. **Sons of God: The Heirs' Relationship to God as Father**

- a. As an heir, *a true son possesses an indelible claim* on all the *rights and privileges* granted and assured by his father based on an indissoluble relationship no conduct or circumstance can void.
 - i. **The father** offers his son all the affection, correction, provision, protection, guidance, and education he is pleased and able to give for no other reason than, "*He is my son.*"
 - ii. **The son** receives from his father with confidence, comfort, and humility for no other reason than, "*He is my father.*"
- b. *Sinners cannot become heirs except by the true sonship of Jesus Christ.*
 - i. We have *no natural claim* on either God or the inheritance of Christ. (Ep. 2:3, 8; 1 Jn. 3:10)
 - ii. The Gospel offers a *true spiritual claim* on the inheritance of Christ. (Jn. 1:12; Ga. 3:26; 1 Jn. 1:3; Ro. 8:17)
- c. Though all mankind are children of God generally, *only by grace are we sons truly*.
 - i. **True**, *God is the Creator of all*. (Ac. 17:28; Jb. 1:6)
 - ii. **True**, *God is good to all*. (Ps. 145:9; Ezk. 18:32)
 - iii. **But** *God is a true Father only by faith in the true son, Jesus Christ*. (Ac. 4:12; 1 Ti. 2:5)
 - iv. **Thus**, *no one is a true son of God until he has faith in Jesus Christ*. (Ga. 3:26)
 - v. **Therefore**, *every true son of God has indelible rights and privileges in Christ*. (1 Jn. 3:1)

II. **If Children, then Heirs: The Spiritual Distinctives of the Heirs of God**

- a. The heirs of God are all *led by his Spirit*. They are led *under* his teaching, *away* from sin, self-righteousness, and folly **toward Christ** by the Word, *with* the Word, *in* the Word. (Ro. 8:14)
- b. The heirs of God all *sense their adoption in the Spirit*. Some feel it more clearly than others, some hardly at all. *All* have been delivered from slavish fear, *all* may have peace and confidence of soul, and *all may draw near freely, boldly* before the presence of God the Father. (Ro. 8:15)
- c. The heirs of God all *have the witness of the Spirit in their hearts*. The Spirit who inhabits eternity **gives his personal reassurance**. Because the Spirit of Christ prays for us, *the true heirs will never trade Christ*. (Ro. 8:16; cf. 2 Co. 1:22; Lk. 22:32)
- d. The heirs of God all *participate in Christ's suffering*. Even as Christ learned obedience through what he suffered, it has been **granted to us** also not only to believe in him, but also to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow him, suffering both *for* him and *with* him. (Ro. 8:17; cf. Hb. 5:8; Ph. 1:29; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 14:27)

III. Heirs with Christ: The Unrivaled Inheritance of the Heirs

- a. As sons of God, we are heirs of *something not yet revealed* (1 Jn. 3:2). As heirs of God, we are heirs of *something glorious beyond imagining* (Ep. 3:20). As joint heirs with Christ, we are heirs of *a share in his majesty and glory* (Ro. 8:17).
- b. In our inheritance, there will be no corruption, no devil, no curse of sin, no sorrow, no tears, no sickness, no death—*all absent* from the saints' inheritance!
- c. But the inheritance is not mainly what is *absent* from it, but the *blessing of God* in it. (Ps. 23:5-7)
 - i. What sweet and comforting **knowledge** we have now will be perfected in glory (1 Co. 13:12).
 - ii. What blessed and fortifying **holiness** we have now will be perfected in glory. (Ep. 5:27)
 - iii. What pleasant and refreshing **rest** we have now will be perfected in glory. (Hb. 4:9)
 - iv. What meaningful and humble **service** we have now will be perfected in glory. (Rv. 7:15)
 - v. What good and happy **satisfaction** we have now will be perfected in glory. (Ps. 17:15)
 - vi. What joyful and inspiring **communion with the saints** we have now will be perfected in glory. (Mt. 13:41; 24:31)
 - vii. But nothing can compare to the perfected **communion we shall have with Christ!** (1 Th. 4:17)

Concluding Applications: The Inheritance Now in View of Eternity

- I. Our inheritance in Christ gives us *certain comforts today*.
 - a. As sons of God, *go to the Father in prayer* to claim the inheritance he promises in Christ.
 - b. As heirs of God, *go to Christ in the Word* to seek the sensible leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. As heirs with Christ, *go with the Spirit into the world* ready to suffer for the sake of the Gospel.
- II. Our inheritance in Christ gives us *solid joys for tomorrow*.
 - a. As sons of God, *remember that nothing compares* with the inheritance we have from our Father.
 - b. As heirs of God, *search the Scriptures for visions of Christ*, our unfading, incorruptible inheritance.
 - c. As heirs with Christ, *strive with the Holy Spirit* for your inheritance in the imitation of Christ.