



“The Spirit of Adoption”

We are God’s Children

Romans 8:14-17

When we think of Adoption in America, it is often perceived to be, second class members of the family. That is sad and misleading. As we come to the passage of scripture today, we must seek to understand what the Apostle Paul intended to convey. He was writing to Roman Christians.

*** In ancient Rome, things were vastly different. To be adopted was considered a great privilege. This must be what Paul was communicating to these Roman Christians.

(III. Adoption - The word "adoption" (huiiothesia) means to place as a son. The picture of adoption is a beautiful picture of what God does for the Christian.

In the ancient world the family was based on a Roman law called "patria potestas," the father's power. The law gave the father absolute authority over his children so long as the father lived. He could work, enslave, sell, and if he wished, he could pronounce the death penalty. Regardless of the child's adult age, the father held all power over personal and property rights.

Therefore, adoption was a serious matter. Yet, it was a common practice to ensure that a family would not become extinct by having no male children. And when a child was adopted, three legal steps were taken.

- 1. The adopted son was adopted permanently. He could not be adopted today and disinherited tomorrow. He became a son of the father--forever. He was eternally secure as a son.
- 2. The adopted son immediately had all the rights of a legitimate son in the new family.
- 3. The adopted son completely lost all rights in his old family. The adopted son was looked upon as a ***new person*** -- so new that old debts and obligations connected with his former family were cancelled out and abolished as if they never existed.)

(III. When we came to Jesus, we were taken out of Adam and adopted into Jesus. We have a new Father!

The Believer's adoption provides a :

I. Family –“sons of God” (vs 14-15)

The Spirit provides for :

A. Leading –“*led by the Spirit*”

When coupled with verse 13 – It is not a leading or guiding of one action but a life as a whole that is determined by the Spirit.

B. Learning –“*the spirit of bondage*”

You have received a new controlling entity. One that is not like the old sinful, arrogant, unlearning spirit of bondage but the place of security, love, and learning.

C. Loving – “*Spirit of Adoption*”

VIDEO – 50 Ways to show your love...

Actually there are many more than 50 ways. As many of us here are very different in our personalities, backgrounds, skill sets, heritages, and spiritual gifts...we are uniquely gifted to show love to others.....now that we have the Holy Spirit's enabling us to tap into God's Love and Methods.

II. Freedom – “ye have not....the spirit of bondage” (vs 15-16)

The Spirit allows us to:

A. Behave – “*bondage again to fear*”

B. Beseech – “*we cry, Abba, Father*”

C. Believe – “*bears witness...that we are the children*”

III. Future – “heirs of God” (vs 17)

The Spirit assures Divine :

A. Privilege - “*if children, then heirs*”

B. Possessions – “*joint heirs with Christ*”

Luke 12:32

C. Purpose – “*that we may be also glorified together*”

NOTICE the passages that have SUFFERING and GLORY paired up. I Peter 4:12-14. 19, 5:1

**** Introduction to Chapter Eight on Next Page -**

- The inner sanctuary within the cathedral of Christian Faith;
- the tree of life in the midst of the Garden of Eden; the highest peak in a range of mountains;
- the greatest passage within the greatest book in Scripture

is how many theologians think of Romans chapter 8.

The word Spirit occurs 21 times in Romans 8

The blessings conferred on the believers by the Spirit are the theme of the chapter...in one word ASSURANCE.

Therefore which begins the chapter draws summary from

- 5:18 – In Adam exchanged for In Christ,
- 6:14 – being controlled by the flesh and sin exchanged for being controlled by the Spirit,
- 7:6 – Being held by the law of sin and death exchanged for being set free by the law of the Spirit of Life.

CHAPTER EIGHT contains:

- No Condemnation in verse 1 leading to No Separation in verse 39.

Verses 1-13 – The Spirit of Life

Verses 14-17 – The Spirit of Adoption

Verses 18-30 – The Spirit of Hope

Verses 31-39 – The Spirit of Victory