

THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION

Romans 8:12-17

6/8/25

I. A NEW DEBT

Romans 8:12-13 - "So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

A. We are NOT debtors to the flesh

- Without Christ, we are controlled by our fleshly desires

B. We ARE debtors to the Spirit

- With Christ, we can pursue righteousness

II. A NEW FAMILY

Romans 8:14-15 - "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"

A. Our identity does not lead to fear

- We do not need to fear coming before the Lord

B. Our identity as sons of God

- We can call out to God as our Father

III. NEW INHERITANCE

Romans 8:16-17 - "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."

A. The assurance of our sonship

I John 3:18-21 - "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God..."

B. The assurance of our inheritance

I Peter 1:3-4 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you..."

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why do we need to be reminded that we are not “debtors” to the flesh? How does this realization help us understand that we are “debtors” or “obligated” to Christ?
3. How can you better yield to the Spirit’s work in your life?
4. What are some situations that have helped you to see God as your loving Father?
5. READ Ephesians 1:13-14. How do the ideas of adoption and assurance fit together? How can this assurance challenge you to live differently?
6. Why can suffering be good for a Christian? How has God used suffering in your life to conform you to His image?