

Transformed, Part 10, Romans 8:14-17 “Adoption”

**How do I know that I am truly a child of God?
How do I know that I belong to God?
That I have the eternal life that comes from God?**

1 John 5:13

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

It is possible to know that I belong to God – that I have eternal life.”

A)Not just wishful thinking, a warm sentiment or a hopeful suggestion

B)No! We can know that we belong to God! How?

1)Part of it definitely is connected to believing the word of God. – Faith

C)So God says in His word – “if we believe in Jesus we’re saved.” John 3:16, Acts 16:31

1)If we receive Christ we become the children of God. John 1:12

D)We are accepted by Him on that basis.

But Paul reveals here in our text that another way we can know we belong to God is through the Spirit of God!

Rd V. 12-17

12 Therefore, brethren, 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. We are those who do not walk after the flesh – but after the spirit – because 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Now Paul gives us 3 reminders that we belong to God: All connected to the ministry of the H.S.

#1 – Adoption

#2 – Abba

#3 – Affirmation

B)When we understand the implications of what Paul is saying here – It SHOULD have a huge affect on how we live! How we behave! How we live.

So Paul says 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

A)We have not received a spirit bondage again to fear – but spirit of adoption! #1 Adoption

B) To really appreciate the beauty of our new position- we need to understand our old position.

1) So he's now making the contrast to where we were before, and where we are now.

C) Paul uses here the image of bondage or slavery and freedom with which to contrast the two eras –

1) the old age and the new, and so our pre and post conversion situation.

D) He reminds us that the bondage or slavery of the old led us to fear.

1) especially of God as our judge.

Remember the scene in the book of Exodus 19,20 when the Old Covenant was given?

A) It was a very frightening scene. Moses brings the people to the base of Mount Sinai.

B) The mountain is covered with smoke. And there's lightning. And there's fire. And there's this voice that's quaking. And the people are trembling.

1) And Moses said that he himself was exceedingly afraid.

C) And the Lord actually stated the reason for manifesting Himself in that way.

1) He said, **"I've come to them in this way that they might fear Me and not sin."**

C) God wanted to literally scare the people into not sinning.

1) Now of course, God knew the natural tendency toward sin in man,

2) But He's seeking to get them to realize how dangerous it is to sin against a holy God.

D) So it was an Ominous day when the old covenant was given. Old Covenant was a covenant that was rooted in fear, fear of retribution, fear of judgment.

E) And there were those severe punishments that were handed out under the law for violating it!

But Paul says we haven't received the spirit of bondage again to fear.

A) You see, the difference between the Old and the New Covenant is drastic differences.

B) The New Covenant is not a covenant that's based in fear. But it's a covenant that's based in love.

1) The Old Covenant, God was pictured as judge, because man was in sin and rebellion.

C) The New Covenant, God is pictured as the Father, because we have become His sons and His daughters.

Note: Now some people make the mistake of thinking that God's relationship to all of humanity is one of a kind, benevolent, loving Father.

A) That's not the right picture. I hate to break the news.

Aa) The right picture is that God is the judge.

1) All of humanity is going to stand before him.

Question: what did you do with My Son?

B) See He is a judge who loves pp – Doesn't like to see pp perish

1) He demonstrated His love by sending Christ.

C) Rescue men from their sins – shame!

1) Reminder – No condemnation for those who are in Christ

John 3:18

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

So God's position to humanity is that of Creator and Judge –

A) He becomes our Father when we come to faith in Jesus Christ.

B) We go from being His enemies to becoming His kids

D) God invites people to come out of that place of enmity toward Him,

1) out of that position of hostility, and invites them to come into this beautiful relationship.

The contrast is so radical.

A) It's not simply that we've gone from being in a really bad position over here to **kind of moving in the middle**, and things are better.

B) We have moved all the way over to the best possible place.

1) So we've gone from that position of rebels under God's wrath, to the position of His dearly beloved children

C) You don't know Christ – **God is your judge** – You sit here condemned –

D) I want to give you the opportunity today to Change in your position with God.

So Paul says of believers we haven't received the spirit of bondage again to fear. {That is over/done!}

A) But what have we received? **We've received the spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba Father."**

B) Understand this: Adoption **is not** the method of entry into God's family.

C) We are Born again into the family of God – John 3 - Nicodemus – Must be Born again

1) Physical birth –also Spiritual

D) Adoption describes our status!

See term adoption in Paul's day meant something completely diff. from our day.

A) Not an orphan being adopted into a family -

B) The Picture is what would take place when a young Roman boy would come of age. – Status Changed.

C) **In a wealthy Roman household** – a young boy, the son of his father who is destined to be his father's heir – as a child would be under the care of a servant.

D) **EVEN THOUGH he is *destined to inherit everything*, he actually has less day-to-day freedom and authority than a high ranking **slave** in the household – That slave is his Guardian {Gal 4**

E) SO His rights, privileges & power to use his inheritance were severely restricted until he came of age.

1) And Though a Son –he is never referred to as an heir until he became of age

But once He came of age – Usually around 14 he entered into participation in their father's business, and he had a share in his inheritance.

Coming of Age

A) A public legal ceremony was performed – they were adopted {or brought into this state of Privilege – Adult Status - Being an Heir.

B) So Paul wants us to understand that when we are born again – we not only are brought into the Family of God.

1) We are brought in with an adult Status –
V.17 Heirs – Co-heirs with Christ

C) There is no coming of age – that needs to take place.

D) We are not teenagers waiting to turn 16 so that we can drive the family car

1) We come into this with an adult status- All the resources of our King is at our disposal.

2 Peter 1:3-4

“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

E) The Christian experience is largely about learning who we are in Christ –

1) Learning what we have been given – and then walking in the reality of that!

F) So Paul wants us to realize **the Privilege and Power that belongs in Christ**

Think of it this way!

A) Let's say while in Argentina fell in love with a little 8 yr boy orphan.

B) Denise and I decided to adopt him. { Speaking in the traditional sense - { go through Process

Bb) Brought home – Room Clothes – spot at the dinner table / key to front door

1 Mi Casa – Su casa – My house – now your house

C) **First day: Gets up – Ask can I wear some of those clothes in the closet – Yes of course they are your clothes**

1) Home from school – rings the door bell – can I come in /

2) Dinner – Ok if I eat with you guys – {Hiding food

D) If that went on for any length of time – that would frustrate us – because He is not getting it – Not understanding – you are part of the family

E) You belong here – this is your house – Your stuff – ENJOY – RELAX

Well that is how a lot of Christians act with the Lord – I really don't belong here – just sort of – here by grace – which is true

A) But God showed you grace – so that we would Know – We do belong!

B) But many Christians live w/ this mentality – “Lord I will try to stay out of Your way – I will try not to cause You any problems.”

C) **Insult to our Father's Character and Love!**

1) Paul is wanting us to understand – that is not our status – We are welcome in the Family –

Cc) **Adult Status – Co-heirs with Christ.**

1) Hebrews 4:16 **“We can approach God with boldness and confidence – knowing that we belong to Him.”**

D) **God wants us to Possess your possessions – Joshua**

1) Believe and wait on the promises

2) Precious saint Bob H. - Promise Believers

Think of it this way I have a decent Library of books in my office/Home office and computer – 1,000's - I have read many of them .

A) But I haven't possessed them all - there are principles and truths found in many of them that I am still praying through -

B) Still need to become a reality in my life .

C) Take the Bible, I have read the whole Bible - but have I possessed the whole Bible ? No

1) Many books that I still wrestle w/ - many principles that are definitely not a part of my life.

D) Possessing starts with believing the truth – that they are mine – they belong to me –

1) At my disposal

E) Because - I have been brought into the family of God – as heir.

This glorious doctrine of adoption is what we would call an objective proof.

A) Objective proofs means things that are outside of us.

B) So the objective proofs are based in the word of God.

1) God said it – Believe it – Stand in it.

But we also have the subjective proof –experience that also is part of role of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

A) Paul wants us to understand that this is more than just a legal matter – a doctrinal matter

B) Paul declares that the Spirit is inside of us Crying out ABBA FATHER. 2nd Proof Abba

C) Abba = Daddy – only privacy

1) Term of affection and intimacy /

D) Danny's kids – Issac and MalaKai – My kids

1) Wasn't Father – Daddy

God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

A) Jesus redeemed us from the Law to make us His kids. And we're not just His children on paper.

B) We're adopted - yes - but more than adopted.

1) In addition to making it a legal transaction, GOD has given us the Spirit of His Son in our hearts

C) The HS in our hearts is crying out – Abba Father

D) Here is what that means - The instinctive cry of our heart is now "Abba!" or "daddy".

E) There is this built in longing for Intimacy with God!

1) Craving is more of God!

This is the one of the biggest things we fail to understand living in this world.

A) Constantly have things thrown at us – Buy this – you need that! – Better this – more of those

B) Creates within us this proverbial discontentment

1)It is natural – But what we fail to realize is what we are really craving – More intimacy with God.

C)God asked the question – in Isaiah 55

Isaiah 55:2-3

**“Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.
3 Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul
may live.”**

**See what we are really craving is more of Jesus!
He is the one who satisfies**

A)Many of you have experienced it – be it at a retreat – or during personal devotions

B)Special worship time – This deep sense of God’s presence

C)His Glory – Kabob – heavy – Heavy in a good way

1)You are just drenched in His presence

D)You feel so fulfilled – so complete – nothing else matters - Basking in His glory – His love

1)Basking in that relationship

E)Something inside of you says – this is what it is all about – this is what I was made for!

**So the Holy Spirit has adopted us into family of God
given us adult standing**

A)He is in us - crying Abba – daddy – affection – intimacy

**B)Just in case we start to doubt – He is bearing
witness. #3 Affirmation**

C)He is also in us bearing witness – that we belong to God!

Bearing witness = Testify: Court of law - testimony!

A)Testimony is so compelling – judge – case dismissed

B)Bearing witness – Speaking to our hearts is the idea – that we are sons/daughters of God

1)Heirs – actually Co-heirs with Jesus Christ

But what are we heirs of ?

A)Whole study on this – but let me simplify it a little bit. - 3 areas

B)1st In the OT – priests were not given a portion in the land – not given an inheritance

1)God declared – I will be your portion. I will be your inheritance

C) More than all the other tribes – **I have chosen you to uniquely – experience My presence**

1) And find your joy and satisfaction – Your sustenance from Me!

Well, we who are believers are called in the NT a Royal priesthood. 1 Peter 2:9 {God is our Portion.

A) God is our inheritance. We are privileged to enjoy this close intimate relationship with God.

B) But Peter called it a **Royal Priesthood** –

1) Kingly – His resources are available to us

C) 2nd Recall in Hebrews 1:2 Jesus is called the heir of ALL things!

1) Everything that is made belongs to Him

D) Preview of coming attractions

We live in this beautiful place –

A) Surf in the morning, ski in the afternoon.

B) God's creation is gorgeous

C) Solomon and liliesDoesn't compare

In other words – He is constantly reminding us that we were made for more than this life.

A) ETERNITY AWAITS –

B) Citizenship in Heaven! 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit."

We are co-heirs – The Bible teaches us that we are going to rule and reign with Jesus!

A) Hard to imagine – So there is **a part future part** to this inheritance.

B) But we need to live like it is a reality!

C) **Vince Lombardi – TD celebration** – act like you have been there before – act like you belong there.

D) HS in our hearts – bearing witness – You belong to God – ACT LIKE IT –

1) Going to heaven! – Act like it

E) Eternity is what matters – Act like it

1 John 3:3 "He who has this hope in Him, purifies himself just as He is pure."

A) Knowing Who we are – knowing what we have in Christ – Huge motivator, to live Rightly

B) **Wouldn't it be odd – millionaires Son** – eating out of garbage cans ?

C) Do we do that trying to satisfy ourselves – by the things of this world?

But I think the idea of being an heir can also involve this – 3rd We have a part in the family Business!

A) Remember – Romans – the Son came of age – he was able to **take part in the family business.**

B) Jesus has a Business He is involved in – Souls!
1) He invites us from the beginning to share in His mission. His business of souls.

C) **Preach the gospel** – tell people about what Jesus has done for you.

1) Opportunities all around us – share your story!

D) There is a world around us – needs Jesus

That is why I get excited MISSIONS about potential I see in Argentina!

A) This might surprise you – but I hate to travel!

B) I hate the whole process – 23 straight hrs of travel Layovers and – end up staying up for 34hrs

C) Killer on my body – How I got sick!

D) But when I see God move in another country – So worth it

1) Hungary, England, Croatia, Scotland, Russia, El Salvador, now Argentina

E) Conversations on planes – Prof at NYU – great conversation- only led one person to Christ

Guys it is a part of your inheritance that Jesus says hey I want you to be a part of my business/ mission

A) Some of you might get the opportunity to go

B) Might not go- give{ **Your giving sent Danny and Michele**

1) All the missionaries on that Board

B) **SHARE IN THE WORK = SHARE IN THE REWARD.**

C) Here is the thing – we can all - Go across the street / the hall at work/ the beach / email

D) Part of our inheritance is that Jesus says – **I want to use your life – if you let Me!**

What about this part – if we suffer with Him?

A) Notice the phrase – **suffer with Him!**

B) I believe this is primarily talking about – bearing the reproach of Christ.

1) It was said of Moses - Hebrews 11:26

“He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”

C)It is becoming less and less popular in this post modern world – living to name the name of Christ

1)Less and less popular to take a stand.

Paul says in v.18 **“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”**

A)The principle Paul states here about suffering is true of all suffering { look at it from that angle N/W

B)But primarily – He is talking about suffering for sharing Christ – { Paul did a lot

C)**Paul was all in** – { Suffered greatly for his faith

1)But his perspective was- suffering will not compare to the glory that follows.

D)Jesus is inviting you and me today -to be ALL IN !

We are going to wrap up today by sharing in Communion.

A)There are three things I want you to be thinking about as the elements are passed out.

#1 Jesus is your portion – He is what your heart is craving for – H.S. – crying –Abba

A)If you have been looking for satisfaction in other things – reaffirm your devotion to Him today.

B)Tell him – Lord I don’t want to engage other things.

#2 Realize your status – Everything that you need for Life and godliness has already been given to you.

A)All the resources – you need are at your disposal

B)Ask Jesus to show you what He has given you.

1)Commit yourself today to possessing your possessions

C)Quit wallowing in defeat

1)Quit wandering in the wilderness of compromise!

#3 Commit yourself today to the family business.

A)Ask Jesus to show you opportunities to share Christ.

B)To reach out to others! / Lord how can I serve?

1)How can I give?

But if you are here today – not a believer in Jesus Christ – then God is your Judge!

A)Not father – JUDGE – the Bible says you are already condemned.....not believed

B)No trial – Done

C)You can change your status today – opening your heart up to Christ – receive Jesus

D)Believe – His work on the cross – paid the price