

Children Of the Father

In a world that has many “fatherless” children, Paul teaches us what it means to be a Christian and call God “Our Father”.

Romans 8:12-17

12 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. **14** 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!” **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 fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

I. For the most part, we live in a fatherless world, a world of fear

- a. A variety of reasons why fathers are absent from their children
- b. The effect on the children is fear. Who will protect me?
- c. In the Spiritual world everyone asks “Do I have a Heavenly Father?”

II. The answer in Romans 8:12-17 is a resounding “YES”!

- a. Through the work of Jesus Christ, we do.
- b. Rom. 1:1-11 we saw how we are set free in Jesus Christ. Now there is more.
- c. Overall we must remember we are in debt to God for what he has done for us

III. The process described here is an amazing one!

- a. We are led by the Spirit of God, not by our own wisdom or works (vs. 12, 13)
- b. We are adopted by God as His child! (vs. 14)
- c. There is nothing to be afraid of. No spirit of fear with God. (vs. 15)

IV. So, what is going on in our souls?

- a. God’s Spirit witnesses to our spirit. We can communicate with God again. Before the Fall in the Garden of Eden. (vs. 16)
- b. As Children of God, there is an inheritance. Eternal life. (vs. 17a)
- c. Suffer? Yes, as we enter the brokenness of others with the healing of Christ. (vs. 17b)

V. The real question for us is, “Have we experienced this truth? Being adopted by God as his child.

- a. What is keeping you from coming to God as your Father?
- b. Come back to Him. Come into his strong and loving arms
- c. This Father has time for you. You can trust Him. Don’t be afraid!

VI. God is saying to you: “Call me Daddy! Abba Father!”

- a. The sacrifice of Jesus has brought you together with God the Father
- b. He will fill you with: Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self control.
- c. The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5: 22,23). This is who God is. This is what we can become as his child.

Discussion Questions

1. What was your earthly father like, and how could that affect your perception of what your Heavenly Father is like?
2. What does it mean to “be led by the Spirit”? (vs. 14)
3. What changes in someone’s life if they are orphans who are adopted into a loving family?
4. What does it mean that “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”? (vs. 16)
5. Why is there nothing to fear if we are adopted by God as his child?
6. What does this passage say about trusting God. Why do we have trouble trusting Him?

Going Deeper

What difference does it make in your life to realize that you are a child of God?