

The Spirit of Adoption

Romans 8:12-17

Introduction

1. In order for us to grow closer to God, and become one with Him in His will, it is imperative that we understand His love expressed toward us in His law.
 2. The Holy Spirit has poured out the love of God in our hearts – **Romans 5:5-6, 8** – shown in the death of Christ, but in everything revolving around it as well (**cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18** – message of the cross).
 3. The Israelites stand as an example for us of those who seemed to never grasp the love of God in His orders – **1 Corinthians 10:10** (they complained); **Deuteronomy 6:24** (but what they complained about was for their good)
 4. A major way God communicates the inherent love He has for us within His directions is the image of a Father and a son.
 5. We are God’s children, and He is our Father – a firm understanding of the implications of this image will give us an accurate perspective of His will for us and a greater appreciation for it, and it will strengthen our trust in Him.
- I. The Spirit of Adoption
- A. The Concept
 - a. Context:
 - i. Freed from bondage in sin – **Romans 7:24; 8:1-2**
 - ii. Urged to mind the things of the spirit rather than the flesh – **Romans 8:4-8**
 1. For our good – **(v. 6)** – carnal mind is death, spiritual is life and peace.
 2. **(vv. 7-8)** – connection to adhering to God’s law.
 - b. Text:
 - i. Debtor to live according to spirit – **Romans 8:12-14**
 1. Lead a spiritual life that subdues fleshly passions so you may live – I.E. NOBODY, ESPECIALLY NOT GOD, IS FORCING YOU TO CATER TO THE FLESH SINCE THAT WILL KILL YOU.
 2. **(v. 14)** – again, connection to adhering to God’s law. (Spirit – **(v. 2)** – law of Spirit)
 - ii. Those who have come into Christ by submitting to the Spirit’s direction, and who continue to be led in that way, are God’s sons – **Romans 8:14**
 - iii. Contrast of spirits (dispositions):
 1. **Bondage to fear** – **Romans 7:21-24** – to sin and death.
 - a. **(vv. 21-23)** – desperately wanting out, but unable.
 - b. **(v. 24)** – wretched man – miserable
 - c. Fear – state of bondage does not put you at ease before God BUT IS AN INCREDIBLY FEARFUL POSITION BEING SUBJECT TO HIS WRATH. **(cf.**

Hebrews 10:26-27 – fearful expectation of judgment)

2. **Adoption** – made to be His children and can call on Him as a son calls on a Father.
 - a. I.e. GOD DOES NOT WISH FOR US TO BE AFRAID OF HIM AS WE WERE WHEN WE STOOD CONDEMNED BEFORE.
 - i. Although, we should still maintain that fear so we don't return to that state.
 - b. HIS INSTRUCTION BY THE HS IS NOT INTENDED TO BE OPPRESSIVE, RATHER, LIBERATING FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND DEATH!
 - c. HE WANTS US TO BE CONFIDENT AND COMFORTABLE IN APPEALING TO HIM FOR ALL WE NEED TO CONTINUE IN THAT BLESSED STATE.
 - d. HE, AS A FATHER, WANTS TO BESTOW BLESSINGS UPON US.

B. The Proof

- a. **Romans 8:16** – HS bearing witness with our spirit as sons (adoption).
- b. Holy Spirit – **Romans 8:2** – His instruction through the word.
- c. Our spirit – (**v. 15** – that of adoption as sons) – attitude or disposition of a son toward a Father – WANTING TO PLEASE HIM, DO HIS WILL.
- d. HS's teaching/direction w/ our disposition as sons to submit – bears witness that we are children of God.
 - i. **John 8:42-44** – God as Father, you do His will; Devil as father, you do his will.

C. The Blessing – **Romans 8:17** – we are heirs with Christ of glory – inheritance.

II. The Blessings and Spirit of Adoption (Note the advantages/blessings of our relationship with God as His children, and what disposition/attitude that affords us)

A. Consider that under God's direction by His Spirit we are not given a spirit (disposition) of bondage to fear, rather, we have the spirit (disposition) as His children.

- a. **2 Timothy 1:7** – spirit of power, love, and sound mind.
- b. Our relationship with God we have attained to through the guidance of the Spirit in the word is a wonderful blessing!

B. Identity with the Father

- a. **1 Peter 2:10** – once not a people.
- b. **Romans 9:25-26** – call My people who were not My people.
- c. **Adoption** – not that we aren't born of God but emphasizing His choosing us.
 - i. **Cf. Romans 9:3-4** – To physical Israel pertained the adoption.
 1. What did they do to receive that? Nothing. God chose them.

- ii. **Ephesians 1:3-6** – chose us before foundation of world to adoption.
 - 1. EMPHASIS – **“in Him”** – NOT individual, but a choosing of location **“in Him.”**
- d. Where we did NOT belong, now we belong to God.
 - i. *“huiiothesia, from huios, “a son,” and thesis, “a placing,” akin to tithemi, “to place,” signifies the place and condition of a son given to one to whom it does not naturally belong.”* (VINE)
 - ii. Further demonstrates His love – where without His choosing us in Christ we would be fatherless, He chose us apart from any obligation on His part that we might be identified with Him.
 - iii. What a blessing! – **1 John 3:1**
- C. Attention of the Father
 - a. What is man that God would pay him any attention? – **Psalm 8:3-4; Job 7:17**
 - b. It can be easy for us to feel as if the world is passing us by, and we are insignificant.
 - c. However, God’s children know He is attentive to them.
 - i. **Luke 12:6-7** – God’s oversight of nature is true, how much more is He attentive to His children. (Context – **vv. 4-5** – threat of persecution)
 - ii. “Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come, why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.” (His Eye Is On The Sparrow, Chas. H. Gabriel)
 - d. God was attentive of our greatest need – **1 John 4:9-10**
- D. Provision of the Father
 - a. Children – helpless to provide for themselves.
 - i. Sometimes we even feel this way, and God wants us to turn to Him.
 - b. **1 Timothy 5:8** – How God feels about those who don’t provide for their family.
 - c. God appeals to the confidence we have in fleshly relationships to grant us confidence in Him – **Matthew 7:7-11**
 - i. We need not worry then – **Matthew 6:25-34**
 - 1. **(vv. 25-27)** – Birds are fed by God, and they don’t grow anxious.
 - 2. **(vv. 28-30)** – lilies are sustained in beauty by God, and they don’t labor at all.
 - 3. **(vv. 31-34)** – God knows we need these things, so we should not worry about them.
 - d. God provided for our greatest need – **Hebrews 10:5-7, 10**

- e. Even more important than physical provision is God’s spiritual provision
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- E. Wisdom of the Father
 - a. **Proverbs 22:15** – foolishness is with children.
 - b. **Proverbs 29:15** – children without direction bring shame.
 - c. **Proverbs 1:8-9** – wisdom of parents is invaluable.
 - d. **Jeremiah 10:23** – we do not know how to live without God’s guidance.
 - e. God has graciously given us His wisdom:
 - i. **John 15:15** – Jesus noted the affection shown through the disclosure of His plans.
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 2:9-16** – where God’s plans cannot be ascertained by man, He has revealed them through His Spirit. (Spiritually discerned – only by those who are His children, seeking His will)
 - iii. **2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3** – we lack nothing in regard to guidance in spiritual life.
- F. Protection of the Father
 - a. Fear of death is paralyzing.
 - i. God comforts us with His providential care/protection – **James 5:14-18** (Prayer activating God’s providential power.)
 - ii. He comforts us by defeating death – **Hebrews 2:14-15**
 - iii. God protected Jesus when He cried, “Abba, Father” – **Mark 14:36**
 - 1. **Romans 8:15** – same that we are able to cry out.
 - 2. Jesus was heard (cf. **Hebrews 5:8**).
 - 3. He was put to death but was made alive in the spirit (cf. **1 Peter 3:18**).
 - 4. Ultimately, conquered death (cf. **Acts 2:27** – not allowed Holy One to see corruption).
 - b. The greatest protection God provides is spiritual:
 - i. **John 10:27-30** – not able to be snatched out of His hand.
 - ii. **Romans 8:38-39** – not able to be separated from His love.
 - iii. **1 Corinthians 10:13** – not tempted beyond ability, and always given escape.
 - iv. **James 4:7-10** – is always there to lift us up.
- G. Inheritance of the Father
 - a. As children we are heirs – **Romans 8:16-17**
 - i. **1 Peter 1:3-4** – born to an inheritance.
 - b. The poor are made rich – **James 2:5**
 - c. The rich are given knowledge of true security – **1 Timothy 6:17-19; James 1:9-10** (glory in humiliation)
 - d. We are content, and at peace because we know we’re taken care of in the end – **Philippians 4:10-13**

Conclusion

1. It is an immense blessing that God has adopted us as His children.

2. We must never forget that His care for us is expressed through the direction of His word.
3. We should maintain this spirit (Attitude) of adoption as sons, always being grateful to Him.