

**Title:** This is How Loved You Are - Adopted by the Father

**Passage:** Romans 8:12-17

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Draft Summary:

Our life in Christ - key truths:

I. We have been called out of fleshliness and fearfulness (v. 12-15a)

II. We have been adopted as sons (v. 15)

III. We have a living and vibrant relationship with our Father. (v.15)

IV. We are heirs of all God has. (v. 16-17)

V. We must suffer in order to be glorified. (v 17)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to be called out of fleshliness and to live without fear?
  - What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
  - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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**Passage:**

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 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!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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.

## **EXPOSITION**

### **Overview**

Our life in Christ - key truths:

I. We have been called out of fleshliness and fearfulness (v. 12-15a)

II. We have been adopted as sons (v. 15)

III. We have a living and vibrant relationship with our Father. (v.15)

IV. We are heirs of all God has. (v. 16-17)

V. We must suffer in order to be glorified. (v. 17)

### **I. We have been called out of fleshliness and fearfulness (v. 12-15a)**

Romans 8:12-13a

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die,

*We are debtors*

- Who is a Christian? A debtor
  - The weaker position
  - We cannot say "I am a victim" or demand something of the Greater.

### **A. Out of Fleshliness**

*not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die,*

- flesh = natural thinking apart from God.
- Contrast with today's culture = what comes naturally should be affirmed
  - Be ware that your passions and feelings are telling you the right way to live.
  - The way of the flesh is the way of death.

Romans 8:13b

but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

- Another way compared to the way of the flesh/death.
- "Put to death" = by the Spirit,

Romans 8:14

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

- Led = brought
  - If led by the Spirit, you are being brought to God.
- Who are led by the Spirit
  - We are being led by the Spirit (verb is passive tense)
    - God is leading you.
- We are all led by God to put sin to death.

Question: How do we know God's Spirit is still leading or working within me?

- See verse 13b: you put to death the deeds of the body and you live
  - Gritty faithfulness
  - Killing sin
  - Choosing holiness
  - Glorifying God
- A genuinely Christian life looks like realizing our sin before a holy God and putting it to death and making different decisions that bring glory to God.

## **B. Out of Fear**

Romans 8:15a

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,

- God leads us out of fear.
- Today's culture: world today is led by fear
  - Motivated by fear of death
    - Because the problem of death is not solved by their efforts
- But as Christians, we do not fear death.
  - You are free from fear of death - Why?
    - Why? Christ has died for you. You have trusted in Christ. All your sins are washed.
      - So, when you die, it is not the worst possible outcome but will instead be with God in glory.

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

- The Spirit has freed us, so we live different from the world.
  - We do not live like the world. We do not fear like the world.

## **II. We have been adopted as sons (v. 15)**

Romans 8:15b

but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

*but you have received the Spirit*

- As Christians, you have received the Holy Spirit upon belief in Jesus.

Ephesians 1:13

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

*of adoption as sons,*

- In Greek Roman culture: firstborn sons received everything
- Likewise, you are in the position to receive everything in Christ.
  - Nothing is withheld as your inheritance through Christ.

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- Adoption
  - God has brought us home
  - Someone who had previously had no connection to the family now is completely within
  - Picture of what God has done.
    - He found us in desperate circumstances (as children of wrath) and have come into His family as a fully-loved member (“as sons” - not as an estranged person but fully in).

### **III. We have a living and vibrant relationship with our Father.**

Romans 8:15

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!”

- Abba = beloved father (greatest term of reverent endearment as father)
- You will never lose or break your relationship with your Heavenly Father.
  - You may sin and grieve His heart.
  - But your bond with God will never be broken.

2 Timothy 2:13

if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

John 10:29

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Luke 15:17-24

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

- The Parable is about the character of God.
  - we, like the prodigal son, may question what God is like and perceive Him as not good.

- But God is good - always.
- “And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”
  - The father doesn’t scold him saying “we have accounts to settle...”
  - But instead the father loves to forgive.
  - A picture of our Heavenly Father, whose heart is quick to forgive and love.

**IV. We are heirs of all God has.**

Romans 8:16-17a

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,

- in Christ, we get every spiritual blessing.
- We are the “first born son” who gets it all.
- We are also the prodigal son - where we don’t deserve any of it.
- Yet God the Father sent His Son so we could be adopted into the family of God which no one can take out.
- God has not held anything good back.

James 2:5

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

**V. We must suffer in order to be glorified.**

Romans 8:17b

provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- Once part of God’s family, we must live and suffer the cost.
- We will not suffer in the same degree but we will have to endure through challenges in a world of darkness with the light of Christ.

2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

Luke 9:23

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

- While it costs us everything, we receive everything good.

Ephesians 6:11-13

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,