

# We Are Family

September 23, 2018

**Scripture Text: Romans 8:14-17 NIV** *14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.*

When you hear the word “Family” what comes to your mind? Do you think about your family only or another family that you envied growing up as a child? We can choose to run away from our birth family but we are still members of that family.

Some families can Choose who they want as members of their family through adoptions. The majority of families, have to accept the cards that that they are dealt. Through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus we can become The Children of God.

**VERSE 14** *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*

Paul makes a contrast between the children who are not led by their earthly passions and sins. To be identified as a Child of God indicates that you have repented from your sins and received the message of salvation in Christ Jesus. At that very moment you were sealed by the Holy Spirit in your confession of faith in Christ. It was then you became a Child of God! When you first received the Holy Spirit, He did not put "you in bondage but released you from sin and the fear of death. Your victory over sin allowed you to engage in a close parent to child relationship with God. You are no longer under the reign of terror that you experienced while trying to hide your sin from God and others. Psalms 103:12 NIV “ as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgression from us.”

The life of Jesus was sacrificed for our sins that we may have Eternal Life because of Gods’ love for us. After His death and burial, Christ rose from the grave with all power and authority... not some power... not some authority but all power and all authority! Since we have the victory, why allow the enemy to torment us with the sins of the past.

**VERSE 15** *The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”* The Spirit of the Lord is pure, Holy and Righteous altogether. He has come to assure us of our salvation by His indwelling presence, leading us and guiding us into all truth. Truth does not bind us; Truth liberates us from the fear of the unknown, death, Hell and the grave. The Bible says in II Corinthians 3:17 NKJV “Now the Lord is Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

Being filled with God’s Spirit is the only way we can truly be identified as God’s Children. His image has been restored and His likeness has become our character. As His children, He recognizes our cry when we call upon our Heavenly Father. We affectionately call “Abba Father” with uplifted hands anticipating the comfort of being in His loving arms.

**VERSE 16** *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.* It is within our human nature to be like our parents in resemblance and character. We can’t escape what is in our DNA but

we can overcome the temptation of living by our sinful nature. When you think and say the words, “But I can’t help it”; the Holy Spirit is there to empower you to overcome if you will obey. When we acknowledge our sins and need for restoration the Holy Spirit is right there to help us. Sins are forgiven, burdens are lifted, peace has been renewed and joy fills our hearts. Our soul receives the validation that ***we are the Children of God!*** I John 4:17 KJV “Herein is our love made ***perfect***, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world.” We are truly a blessed family by living life God’s way. Are you living life God’s way? Are you seeking His will and not yours?

**VERSE 17** ***Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*** We are God’s Children receiving His favor, His protection, His provision and His life changing Word. Lord we are thankful for being in the family. The Bible says, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof” Psalms 24:1 The earth belongs to the God and it is His foot stool but we get to set at His feet. We share in everything that belongs to God by virtue of our adoption through Christ. We get to go to Heaven to be with the Lord God because Jesus suffered once for all sins. We join in His sufferings. The apostle Paul wrote, “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” ([2 Corinthians 4:8–9](#)).

In these two verses, Paul lists several types of suffering — Mental, Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual. Each of these are different ways that we can suffer, and when suffering comes, often several of these types of suffering are involved. As Christians, we still suffer as we wait for Jesus to return, but none of our suffering is random or without purpose.

1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV) “*But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*”

#### **APPLICATION:**

When you allow the Holy Spirit to Lead you, He will and that a promise.  
Our sufferings will always be minor compared to Christ suffering.

#### **COMMUNION GATHERING**

**Scripture: Hebrews 10:5-7** *Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.’ ”*

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 New King James Version (NKJV)

#### **Institution of the Lord’s Supper**

**23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

**26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.**

#### **Examine Yourself**

**27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.**