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Adopted As God's Children Romans 8:15-27

- In the opening verses of chapter 8 Paul explains and declares to the Roman Christians that the Holy Spirit resides in believers. Moreover that the Holy Spirit has the job of leading believers through the daily struggles between the old nature of the flesh and the new nature of the Spirit. This is the ministry of the Spirit
- In verse 2 Paul tells us that the Law cannot claim us, we now have life in the Spirit. Paul went into great detail back in chapters 5, 6, & 7, explaining that the Law has no jurisdiction over a believer. You are dead to the law and freed from its claim on you. The Law can only condemn, it cannot save, and because Christ already suffered that condemnation for you on the cross, you have been freed from it.
- So now we are dead to the Law, Paul goes on in verses 9-11 to tell us that we are no longer in the flesh, but in the Spirit. This is the evidence of our conversion, the presence of the Holy Spirit within witnessing that you are a child of God. You hear that term used a lot in Christendom, "child of God". What does it mean to be a child of God?
- I have known several people who have adopted children. When the process is complete, the adopted child is immediately a member of the family enjoying all the privileges and benefits of the family. Some of these children are rescued from dire difficult situations and find safety and love with the new family.
- Paul here in chapter 8 uses a metaphor of adoption to emphasize another valuable truth about our relationship and standing with God. Paul has told us that one benefit of our salvation is that we are moved into a position of peace with God(5:1). Actually it gets even better, we obtain a special status of being adopted children of God. We have been rescued from a life of being dead in our sins to enjoy the privileges and benefits of being alive in the family of God. In this new relationship, God provides everything we need in our daily lives through the Holy Spirit. Paul focuses on that truth beginning in verse 15.
- Lets back up to verse 14. Here Paul says that people who are led by the Spirit are sons of God. We are led by the Spirit. The verb "led" means being willingly led. We yield to the Spirit and God leads us day by day. There is no need to be afraid to act, we are not under the bondage of the Law. We have the liberty of the Spirit and are free to follow Christ.
- Now look in 15, how did we become sons of God? Paul says by the Spirit of adoption. The word adoption means "being placed as an adult son". When we accept Christ through faith we are born into the family of God, and at that instant God adopts us and gives us the position of an adult son. The Spirit is the agent through whom God performs this adoption.

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Through the Spirit we receive all the privileges that being adopted into God's family bring.

- One condition that being adopted doesn't produce is a spirit of bondage or a spirit of slavery. He says a spirit of bondage that leads to fear. This is not our position, that is the opposite of being God's child where we experience safety and assurance. We don't have to be afraid of the Spirit's leading, we can trust God.
- I do not want to just gloss over or rush past this particular point here. I think about my walk with the Lord and see time after time where I have resisted the leading of the Spirit because of fear. Due to lack of spiritual maturity or trying to hold on to my previous status of worldliness or whatever causes it, I had not really come to grips with the fact that being in the center of God's will is the safest and happiest place to be.
- I read about a Deacon who said for years he was afraid to completely surrender to the Spirit's leading because he may be led to some far away place like Africa as a missionary. (Man alive, I'll tell you the truth, I'm afraid that the Spirit may lead me across the street to my neighbor's house.) Paul uses this same truth to encourage a young preacher named Timothy. In II Tim 1:7 Paul says we were not given a spirit of timidity and fear, rather a Spirit of power and love, and also, **of a sound mind**. We need to understand that following God's will, is sound reasonable thinking, and that resisting and being afraid is unreasonable and downright crazy!
- You can know that through the Spirit of Adoption that you are His child in the fullest sense. When we need Him we can cry out to Him. Paul says we can cry out "Abba Father". The term "abba" is an Aramaic word used by children, much like our children would say "daddy" or "papa". The Lord God is so much more than a God who rules from heaven, He is our Daddy who loves us unconditionally and who gives to us in abundance. Jesus tells us in John that we have been given an abundant life.
- Paul tells us in 17 that we have inherited that abundant life. As adopted children we are heirs or co-heirs with Christ. Again as he has pointed out in previous chapters, Paul emphasizes our oneness with Christ. We share in His glory and also in His sufferings. We will have issues with the world because it is not our home. When you name the name of Christ you will be going against the grain of the world. Like rubbing a cat's fur the wrong way. This could be another reason that we are afraid to follow the Spirit's leading. Look in verse 18, we don't have to be afraid of anything this old world can dish out!
- Paul said he considered that whatever the world can do is nothing compared with what God can and will do. The verb "consider" means "to reckon" or "to calculate". If you carefully consider or calculate the "pros and cons" of being a child of God, Paul says there is no comparison. Anything this world can do to you pales in comparison to what God does for those who are His.
- And it is not just us believers that looks to the future glory. Verse 19 says

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- all of creation eagerly awaits with anticipation, this literally means to watch with an outstretched neck. Looking for what? Look in 21. Paul is looking ahead here to the end of time. When creation is **delivered** from the corruption of being under the curse of sin.
- It is all decaying and deteriorating, and creation nor humanity can free itself, only God **can do and will do that**. Creation will share in the glory that God gives His redeemed children, He will free creation from sin's bondage and corruption, freed from sin's guilt, sin's power, and sin's presence. It can be painful getting there, in verse 22 he tells us it is like labor pains. The mother groans with the pains but is filled with hope at the prospect of the baby. Creation groans, but not hopelessly.
 - We are God's adopted children, and as such the Holy Spirit assures us that we will take part in God's future glory. Meanwhile, believers and creation eagerly await the day when God's redemption is complete.
 - We are in the family of God, with all the benefits and privileges that brings. We will suffer with our Savior and for our Savior's sake. Paul explains that for believers, we rejoice in being part of God's family and not a part of the worldly system that rejects God and us as the family. Paul said in Philippians 1:21 "to live is Christ and to die is gain". While I live I serve and follow Jesus Christ, and when I die, however that happens, I am with Christ, so I have a winning path in life and death.
 - The world can do nothing that is greater than what God has done for us and is doing through us, His children. Whatever the world can dish out is nothing compared to being called a "child of God".