

Theme: God has graciously made us members of His family, with all of the rights, privileges and inheritance of being His child.

I. Intro – Welcome to House of Prayer

- A. We are glad to worship together again
- B. BRCC continues to pray for you to be blessed!
- C. Pastor Nelson has bronchitis, so I am filling in - he will preach next time!
- D. Today I wanted to look at adoption

II. Adopted By God

- A. Paul says we have been adopted by 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!” Rom 8:15
 - 1. NIV - Spirit of sonship
 - 2. Greek word was used for adoption; that is the idea
 - 3. Same word used 5 times in NT - all by Paul
But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive **adoption as sons**. Galatians 4:4–5
- B. From slaves to sons!
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!” Rom 8:15
 - 1. Contrast of spirit of slavery/Spirit of adoption as sons
 - 2. Even clearer in parallel text in Galatians

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive **adoption as sons**. ⁶ And because you are **sons**, God has sent the **Spirit of his Son** into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ **So you are no longer a slave, but a son**, and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:4–7

- 3. Our former slavery vs. our new place as sons
 - a. We were slaves to Satan - now we are free!
 - b. We were slaves to sin - now we are free from sin
 - c. We were slaves to death - now we are full of life!
 - d. We were slaves - now we are sons!!!
- 4. All of this is given to us in Jesus! Praise His Name!

III. The Benefits of Adoption

- A. Our fear has been turned to confidence
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** Romans 8:15–16
 - 1. As slaves of Satan & sin - God was a terror to us
 - 2. As a child we cry Abba, Father!
 - a. Unusual phrase - Aramaic & Greek words for father
 - b. Paul also says same thing in Galatians passage
And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Galatians 4:6

- c. Learned this from Jesus
And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Mark 14:36
- d. Affectionate term used for fathers - even by grown children

3. The Holy spirit testifies to us - we are God’s children!
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** Romans 8:15–16

B. We are made heirs of God - co-heirs with Christ!

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. Romans 8:16–17

1. Not only are we no longer slaves - we are sons!
2. Not only are we sons - we are heirs of God!
3. We are not small heirs - joint heirs with Christ!
4. This is cause for joy - and it fuels our walks
5. All the Father has is yours - what a joy!

C. We are given the privilege of sharing in Christ’s suffering

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.** Romans 8:16–17

1. This seems strange at this point - why say this?
 - a. Jesus has the same point in His Abba Father prayer
And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. **Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.**” Mark 14:36
 - b. This is a deeply rooted biblical principle
 1. The cross precedes the crown
 2. Struggle precedes our final rest
 3. Lament precedes praise
 4. Suffering precedes glory
2. But note that this is possible because God is Abba
3. Like Jesus we cry out to Him, draw strength from Him

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do you know you have been adopted by God?
 1. You are no just a freed slave - you are God’s child
 2. You are not a second class child - co-heir with Christ
 3. Meditate on this fact - you are adopted by God!
 4. Listen to the Spirit - He testifies to you as well
 5. Do not rest until this sinks into your bones
- B. Do you walk with Abba in all seasons of life
 1. He is your Father - talk to Him!
 2. Talk when the times are good - give Him thanks

3. Talk to Him when the cup is bitter - He is Abba
4. Talk to Him when He seems distant - Abba always hears
5. Talk to Him when fear comes - Abba gives courage
6. Talk to Him when doubts arise - Abba gives faith
7. Talk to Him when you feel weak - Abba gives strength
8. Draw near to Abba always - He loves you as His own

C. Concluding prayer to Abba Father

Adopted By God

Romans 8:15-17 ESV

April 28, 2013

Prayer

Psalm 115:14-15

May the Lord make you increase, both you and your children. ¹⁵ May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.