

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 13, 2023

“Life in the Spirit: The Blessings of Spiritual Adoption”

Romans 8:14-17

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.”

(Romans 8:14-17)

“...adoption is the highest privilege the Gospel offers.” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*)

“Adoption, as the term clearly implies, is an act of transfer from an alien family into the family of God Himself. This is surely the apex of grace and privilege. We would not dare to conceive of such grace, let alone to claim it, apart from God’s own revelation and assurance. It staggers imagination because of its amazing condescension and love.” (John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*)

Reflecting on these verse, we can see that Paul highlights three aspects of our adoption in particular—three blessings that we receive as children of God.

This is what’s happened to us the moment we trusted in Jesus. We discovered that God was ready, _____, always full of love to _____ us home. Like the son in the parable, when we trust in Christ we’re _____—no condemnation is declared over us. We’re given new _____, regenerated by the work of the Holy Spirit; enabled more and more to _____ God.

When we _____ our sin and trust in Jesus, God comes running. He embraces us. He rejoices over us. He elevates us from the pigsty filth of our sin and guilt to the sonship—or daughtership—that our sin has _____. We’re raised from the degradation of the spiritual gutter to the heights of privilege and grace.

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are...” (1 John 3:1)

In the previous section that we looked at last week, you’ll remember that Paul said we are _____, meaning that we’re debtors to the spirit of God to live according to the Spirit, by putting to _____ the deeds of the body that we might live.

According to Paul, the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the _____ that we’re children of God.

BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT

Paul isn’t saying that to be “led by the Spirit” isn’t about some kind of direct, supernatural _____ in the everyday details of our lives, but rather it’s a restating and _____ of the teaching in verses 12 and 13. It’s another way to talk about living according to the Spirit and by the Spirit putting the deeds of the body to death.

We should certainly _____ to be led by the Spirit every single day of our Christian lives. However, we need to understand that the Spirit leads us specifically into Christian maturity, _____, and growing obedience.

He _____ our minds and probes our hearts. He convicts us of sin; He instructs us in the way, through the Word of God. He strengthens our _____ to the world, the flesh, and the devil. He empowers us to say “No” to sin and “Yes” to righteousness. The Holy Spirit’s great work is to make us holy, to make us into the likeness of _____.

And that leading, Paul says, is the demonstration to us that we are the sons and daughters of God. Or to put it another way, one of the ways we know we’ve been adopted into the family of God is that we come to display more and more the family _____, as the Holy Spirit leads us into _____ to the character of Christ.

3 BLESSINGS THAT COME AS A RESULT OF OUR ADOPTION

Blessing #1: _____.
Before we became Christians, we were the _____ and God Himself was our Judge. However, now that we’re in Christ, the Judge is now our _____ and there’s no longer any place for dread before Him. We can come to Him with boldly, with familiarity and _____.

The Holy Spirit, having made us new _____ in union with Jesus Christ, has brought us into the family of God. And now, the mind set of _____ terror, the terrible _____ of knowing ourselves guilty before God,

awaiting sentencing, is gone forever.

We can lift our eyes to heaven and _____ to Almighty God as His beloved sons and daughters; we can come into His _____, never hesitating, because of _____; never checking if we're qualified for an audience.

Blessing #2: _____.

In addition to our own internal _____ that we're the children of God, there's the additional testimony and witness of the _____.

This assurance is a deduction based on the _____ that we see in ourselves of walking with God in _____ combined with the testimony of the Holy Spirit.

There's the witness of our own spirit based on what we can see, the evidence that we can accumulate. Yes, we're led by the Spirit of God into growing _____, and we can see, as we track our progress over the years, that we love sin less and less and long for the things of God more and more. There's progress—modest, often hindered and stumbling, but real, nonetheless, and that gives us some _____ that we're children of God.

However, from time to time, as the sovereign God ordains, there are also moments of _____ of the Spirit's embrace: immediate, direct, profound, and precious.

We need to pray for moments like these when, beyond what evidence we can gather to give ourselves assurance, the Spirit Himself comes and bears _____ to us that we're God's children.

Blessing #3: _____.

What we discover when we become Christians is that God has made a will—although He'll never die—in which He promises us an everlasting _____—incorruptible, undefiled, kept in heaven for us.

And what is it that we'll inherit when the glorious day comes? Not mansions or money, but God _____, with an intimacy and a wonder that far exceeds anything we could ever know here.

Certainly, we can have moments of sweet _____ with God in our hearts by the Holy Spirit that are to be cherished. However, the sweetest and highest moment of fellowship with God that we can never know here, will be eclipsed when at last we see Him, when at last we're _____ with Jesus.

At Home Work

Is there something about today's sermon that I need to:

- Admit
- Believe
- Change in me
- Demonstrate
- Share
- Confess
- Research further

Notes: