

I. Introduction and Review.

- A. You are privileged children of God. v. 15-17 9:26 I Jo. 3:1-2 II Co. 6:18 Jo. 1:12-13
- B. Note the change in the new TNIV translation from *sons* to *children*. v. 14b
1. Verse 14 contains the Greek word *huios* which is literally rendered *son*.
 2. Later Paul uses the word *tekno*s: *child(ren)*. v. 16-17
 3. The TNIV (Today's NIV) is a revision of the NIV which seeks to eliminate gender specific language by removing masculine references.

II. You are God's adopted sons (children). v. 15

- A. You are no longer slaves living in fear. v. 15a Gal. 3:23-24 4:3,8
1. To what s(S)pirit(s) does Paul refer? 11:8 Ga. 4:6 ICo. 2:12 4:21 IPe. 3:4 ITi.1:7
 2. When you were in the flesh (under the law) you lived under slavery and fear. 6:16-17 Ga. 4:3,8 Jo. 8:34
- B. God has adopted you, replacing slavery and fear with sonship and freedom. v. 15b Gal. 3:25-26 4:4-7 II Ti. 2:7 II Co. 3:17
1. Adoption is a picture of our new relationship to God.
 2. Paul probably has Roman adoption in mind.
 3. Your adoption is entirely God's work. 5:12-14 3:20 Eph. 1:5 Jo. 1:12-13
 4. You now enjoy privileges of sonship, which were once limited to Israel. 9:4,26 Ga. 3:28-29 4:7 Ex. 4:22 Deut. 14:1 Jer. 3:19 31:9 Hos. 1:10 I Pe. 2:9-10
 5. You are adopted through your connection with Jesus Christ. He. 2:14-15
 6. Now you enjoy freedom and peace through the indwelling Spirit. Ga. 4:6 5:22 II Co. 3:17 II Ti. 1:7 I Jo. 4:18
 7. Becoming a Christian is more than intellectual acceptance of the propositional truths of the gospel. It is the entrance into a personal relationship with God.
- C. You have the privilege of open access to your heavenly Father (Daddy). v. 15c He. 4:14-16 Eph. 2:18
1. You no longer have to fear coming into His presence.
 2. God is a God in Whom you trust.
 3. Christ has obtained the full access of sonship for you. Heb. 4:14-16
 4. You address God by the same Name the Lord Jesus used. Mark 14:36
 5. You may address your Father in the most intimate terms: Abba. Ps. 103:8-14
- D. Application: Heb. 4:16 10:22 5:7

III. The Spirit bears witness that you are God's child. v. 16

- A. The Spirit enables you to address God as Abba Father. v. 15c Gal. 4:6 I Co. 12:3
- B. The Holy Spirit bears witness to you. 5:5
1. Paul does not explain exactly how the Holy Spirit testifies. Eph. 1:13 II Co. 1:22
 2. Assurance is not merely based upon intellectual acceptance of objective facts. There is also a subjective experience of assurance. 5:5 I Jo. 3:18-21
 3. The Spirit convinces you that the Word is true and gives you understanding. John 16:13 8:47 I Co. 2:14
 4. The Spirit sanctifies, empowers, and uses you. Acts 1:8 Gal. 5:22-24 I Co. 12:7
- C. The Father wants you to be assured of His eternal love for you.

IV. As God's child, you are also His heir. v. 17 Ga. 4:7

A. You are an heir of God.

1. Your Father is very rich. Hag. 2:8 Ps. 50:10 16:6
2. God Himself is your inheritance. Deut. 18:2 32:9 Ps. 16:5-6 73:25-26 Lam. 3:24 Josh 13:33

B. You are a joint heir with Christ.

1. God's riches are yours only because of your connection with Christ. Ga. 3:29 John 17:22-24 Titus 3:6-7 Heb. 9:15-16 Eph. 1:3,10-11
2. Jesus is heir of all things. He. 1:1-2 Mt. 21:38 I Co. 3:21-22
3. Your inheritance is absolutely secure. 8:29f I Pe. 1:3-5 Heb. 6:16-18
4. We will share our inheritance with all of God's people. II Ti. 4:8
5. Through Christ we have inherited the promises of Abraham, the heir of the world (the kingdom). 4:11-13 Gal. 3:14,16,28-29 4:7 Gen. 17:7
6. The Spirit is the firstfruit of your inheritance. 8:23

C. You must share Christ's suffering before you share His glory. I Pe. 1:6-8 4:13

1. Why does Paul bring this up now?
2. Some mistakenly "claim" the inheritance now. Heb. 11;9-10,13-16
3. As Christ received the kingdom after suffering, so will you. 5:2f Mt. 5:11-12 16:24 21:23 Mark 8:35 13:13 Lu. 24:26 II Ti. 2:11-12 3:12 Jo. 15:18-21 Acts 9:4-5 14:22 Phil. 3:10 Col. 1:24 II Co. 4:8-11
4. Our Lord endured because of the Joy set before Him. Heb. 12:2
5. Suffering is a mark of sonship. >
6. The suffering will be worth it because of the glory which follows! 8:18 II Ti. 4:8 I Pe. 4:13 5:10 II Co. 4:16 John 16:33
 - a. You will receive new name. Rev. 3:12
 - b. You will wear a crown of gold. Rev. 4:4 14:14 II Ti. 4:7-8
 - c. You will reign with Christ. Rev. 20:4 3:21 Lu. 22:30 11:19f II Ti. 2:12
 - d. Your body will be glorified like Christ's. 8:22-23 I Co. 15:49 Phil. 3:20
 - e. You will live in a renewed creation. 8:19-22
 - f. Christ has prepared a heavenly home for you. Jo. 14:1-3
 - g. You will see Jesus and live in His presence. Rev. 21:3 I Jo. 3:1-2
 - h. You will feast at a Heavenly banquet. Mt. 22:1f
 - i. You will be like Christ. I Jo. 3:2.

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion Questions for Family Worship.

1. What is the meaning of your spiritual adoption?
2. How does your new status as God's child differ from your pre-conversion experience?
3. What is the significance of being able to call out to God as Father (Abba)?
4. How does the Holy Spirit bear witness that you are a child of God?
5. What does Paul mean when he says that you are *heirs of God*?
6. In what sense are you a joint heir with Christ?
7. How is suffering connected with your inheritance?