

**Blessed Assurance**  
**“Sons and Heirs”**  
**Romans 8:14-17**  
Pastor John Miller

**Introduction: 2 Corinthians 5:17- “If any man be in Christ...”**

**\* A Christian is “in Christ” and “in Christ,” all things become new.**

- 1) **A new position** (v.v. 1-4)—“in Christ Jesus”
- 2) **A new life** (v. 13)—“in the Spirit”
- 3) **A new relationship** (v.v. 14-17)

**\* We are sons and heirs adopted into God’s family!**

**\* We are both:**

- 1) **Born** into God’s family (John 3)
- 2) **Adopted** into God’s family (a new standing)

**\* The two themes of our text are “son ship” and “heirship.”**

- This relation to God as “sons” and “heirs” implies a trustful intimacy.

**\* In this passage, Paul gives us three blessings from the Holy Spirit that bring the true believer a blessed assurance.**

## **I. The Holy Spirit Leads Us (v. 14)**

**\* All Christians are led by the Spirit of God**

- Paul is not talking about some “super saints”
- It is all Christians!

### **A. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit of God?**

1. **He renews our mind**
  - a. How?- By the Word of God (the Bible)
  - b. Romans 12
2. **He stirs our heart**
  - a. To pray (v. 15- “cry Abba Father”)
  - b. To praise
  - c. To proclaim
3. **He directs our will**

- a. To walk in holiness
- b. Philippians 2- "...work out your own salvation..."
- c. The Holy Spirit leads us to live for God's glory

- \* If God's Spirit is leading you, it is an assurance that you are "the sons of God" (v. 14).
  - o "Being led" are "sons," and all "sons" are "being led."

### **B. What does Paul mean by "sons of God?"**

- 1. "Sons" in Greek- "*hulos*" (a child matured enough to take on a family's privileges and responsibilities.)
- 2. (v. 16) "children" in Greek- "*tekna*" ("born ones")
  - a. Contrast the two

Illustration: Babies don't enjoy freedom.

- 3. We are "sons being led by the Spirit."

## **II. The Holy Spirit Frees Us (v. 15)**

- \* We are not only being "led by the Spirit," we are also loved by the Father.

- \* Three facts about the Spirit freeing us:

### **A. We have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear (v. 15)**

- 1. We are "sons" not "slaves" to sin
- 2. No fear of condemnation (v. 1)

### **B. We have received the Spirit of adoption (v. 15)**

- 1. The word "adoption" is only used by Paul

Illustration: In Old Testament- Moses; Esther by Mordecai; Mephibosheth

- 2. Paul took the idea from the Roman world (not Jewish).
  - a. "Adoption" signified being granted the full rights and privileges of sonship in the family to which one does not belong by nature.
- 3. When you became a Christian you were:
  - a. Regenerated (God as Creator—His power)
  - b. Justified (God as Judge—His righteousness)
  - c. Adopted (God as a Loving Father—your position and power)

### **C. "We cry 'Abba Father'"**

- 1. "Abba" is Aramaic—it's an intimate form of the word "Father."

Illustration: "Daddy" or "Papa"

Illustration: Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer and in the Garden of Gethsemane.

- 2. It's the reflexive response of a true child of God ("the Spirit cries out...")

3. “To think that God, Who is infinitely high, is intimately nigh.”
4. Jesus taught in Matthew 6- “don’t worry what you will eat or drink...”
5. We are free to rest in our “Abba’s” love and care.

### **III. The Holy Spirit Assures Us (v. 16)**

\* Again, it is the “Spirit Himself.”

\* What does the Holy Spirit do for God’s children?

- (v. 16) “Beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children (Greek “*tekna*” or “*born ones*”) of God.”

\* The Spirit gives us blessed assurance because:

- 1) He leads us (v. 14)
- 2) He cries out from us (v. 15)
- 3) He speaks to us (v. 16)

#### **A. What is the basis for assurance?**

1. The Word of God the Father (1 John 5:13)
2. The Work of God the Son (John 3:16)
3. The Witness of God the Holy Spirit (v. 16)
  - a. Do you have this witness?
  - b. If not, trust in Jesus today!

### **CONCLUSION**

\* **Paul ends with the results of being a child of God.**

- 1) **Heirs of God; joint heirs with Christ (v. 17)**
  - a. **All of God’s children will inherit the new heavens and new earth!**
- 2) **We suffer with Him now (v. 17)**
- 3) **We will also share in His glory (v. 17)**
  - a. **The Holy Spirit is the down-payment.**
  - b. **“For I reckon that the sufferings of...” (v. 18)**

\* **We have a new hope!**