

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you have not received the Spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies to our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

(Romans 8:12-17)

*“to be right with God the Judge is a great thing,
but to be loved and cared for by God the Father
is greater.”*

– J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

Romans 8:1-39

The Assurance of the Christian

The Spirit of Adoption

- The Holy Spirit both *confers* and *confirms* our status as children of God
 - the adoption metaphor emphasizes our status and relationship as sons in the Son
 - as sons we are fellow-heirs with Christ, the Son

Fellow-Heirs

1. Our inheritance

- we will share in the resurrection glory of Christ, our Elder Brother, as resurrected sons
- the conformity of adopted sons into the image of the Son is the goal of our redemption and the culmination of our adoption (c.f. 8:29)

Fellow-Heirs

2. The Role of Suffering

- suffering is the divinely appointed means of attaining glory with Christ
- progressive conformity to the Son by the Spirit is in and through suffering
- the present sufferings of adopted sons demonstrate our participation in the Son, guaranteeing future glory

Fellow-Heirs

- Like Jesus, it is in our most desperate suffering that we discover the reality and joy of being a child of God – *“we cry, Abba, Father”*