

Father's Day 2022 (6.19.22) #22049

Romans 8:12-17

Our New Father

I. When we become Christians, we are joined to God in Christ. Jn.17:20-23; Gal.2:19-21.

- A. We are metaphysically, invisibly, spiritually unified with Jesus Christ by faith.
 - 1. He is in us and we are in Him Spiritually/metaphysically made one with Christ, God in the flesh.
 - 2. The idea of being "in Christ" is all through the NT. Used over 200 times in various ways.
- B. Born from above by the Spirit. Jn.3
 - 1. Titus 3:4-7, washed, regenerated, renewed.
- C. Immersed into God's Trinitarian life. Matt.28:18-20
 - 1. Symbolized by water baptism.
- D. Adopted into God's eternal family. Rom.8:12-17; Gal.4:1-7
 - 1. Legal and Existential union with God personally.
- E. *We take on by adoption Jesus's relationship to God the Father...*

II. So, when we personally come to Jesus Christ in faith, we *change fathers*.

- A. Jn.20:17. "I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, My God and your God"
- B. From Adam to Christ. Rom.5:12-21
- C. From the domain of darkness to the kingdom of Light. Col.1:11-14
- D. From Satan to God. Jn.8:44; Eph.2:1-10
- E. **Note Well: this new life is invisible, *but not imperceptible.***
 - 1. We feel and live it.
 - 2. You know if you are a Christian...and others know it too.

III. Spirit Sonship is at the center of the Christian experience.

- A. It is unique to the gospel.
 - 1. No other religion or philosophy offers to bring you into the very family of God Himself.
 - 2. Only those in Christ have this Father/child relationship with God. Jn. 1:12-13; John 20:17
 - a) Contrary to the liberal view of universal fatherhood and brotherhood.
- B. It is better than the state of Adam before the fall. Titus 3:5
 - 1. Adam and Eve were not regenerate. They lost spirit-connection with God because of not trusting and doing His word.
- C. It is the source of all other benefits of Christ.
 - 1. Justification, sanctification, glorification are all intimately connected with our being God's own children.

IV. Paul rejoices in the experience of new life of Freedom in Spirit. Rom. 8:12-17; (Gal. 3:23- 4:7). (Paul references the Holy Spirit 19 times in Rom.8)

- A. Free from condemnation. 1-9
 - 1. Because the Law of the Spirit has set you free from the law of sin
- B. Free to live forever. 10-11
 - 1. He regenerates, not just jump-starting, but staying with and in us. Jn.14:17
 - 2. The Spirit has given us eternal life and new bodies. Phil.3:21
- C. Free to do what is good: 12-13.
 - 1. Not to the old flesh life, the slavery of the non-Spirit life.
 - 2. *But freedom to do what is good by the power of the Spirit.*
- D. Because we are now and ever will be God's own children. 14-17**
 - 1. Not slavery and fear, but adoption and intimacy
 - 2. The Spirit bears witness within ...

V. Living with God as your personal Father means at least 5 things.

- A. Intimacy and Affection. Abba
 - 1. *There is nothing quite like the love of a parent for a child (except a grandparent ...) Like wrestling on the floor with the little guys – no thought of rejection*
 - 2. On earth we crave this but often only have one or the other – or neither.
 - 3. A profound *feeling* of belonging to God based on the real *fact* of vibrant faith
- B. Security and Assurance. No longer a slave ...
 - 1. Slaves may be sold, but a son is permanent,
 - 2. Assurance – He bears witness within our spirit that our name for God is Father.
 - 3. Note. Jn.16:33. We suffer in this age, He has overcome it.
- C. Development and Maturity. 1 Jn.3:1-10; Heb. 12;
 - 1. Growing up under his guidance and discipline.
 - 2. We grow slowly, usually by making mistakes
 - 3. *Difficult Life today is the venue of spiritual growth and fatherly discipline from God our father.*
- D. Loyalty and Family life. Jn.13:34
 - 1. *Loyalty to Jesus produces koinonia, Spirit-family life.*
 - 2. *If you need to be threatened with loss of salvation in order for you to be loyal to the Lord – what's that about?*
 - 3. We are siblings, He is our Father. Commitment to Him and to each other is crucial to healthy relationships.
- E. Destiny and Honor. Heirs of God Fellow-heirs with Christ. Glory. Rom.8:30; Phil.3:21; Eph.2:7
 - 1. Honor (replacing shame) is your destiny as a Christian. Glorified.

VI. How to tell if God is your Father. Five things...

- A. Have you put repentant faith in the Real Jesus Christ? Rom.10:9-10
 - 1. You know who He is and what He has done and you have put personal, repentant faith in Him for eternal life.
- B. Have you been baptized? Matt.28:18-20
 - 1. The powerful symbol of immersion in God.
- C. Do you intuitively cry “Abba” Father from your heart. Rom.8:15; Gal.4:6
 - 1. A strong intuition, Spirit to spirit.
- D. Do you love other Christians? (or do you want to?) Jn.13:34; 1 Jn.3:1-10
 - 1. The fruit of the Spirit. 1 Cor.13; Gal.5
- E. Are you convicted with you sin? 1 Jn.3:1-10
 - 1. This is sort of a negative indicator, but a real one.