

Romans 8 Church-wide Study

Small Group Session 4 – *Heirs with Christ*

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation-but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are Gods’ children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.” (Romans 8:12-17 – NIV)

GATHERING

Last week we learned about the Christians POWER SUPPLY- the Holy Spirit.

As Jerry mentioned in the sermon, *the sum of life isn't going to be presenting God with your lovely well accumulated proverbial shell collection when you meet Him at the end of life's journey.* On the contrary, the Spirit gives your life, real life, because the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you because of the righteousness of Christ Jesus. We need to remember another statement from that message; “God offers us the gift of HIS representative from the Heavenly realm to help us live in the earthly realm”. Be reminded of the C.S. Lewis quote regarding living by the power of the Holy Spirit, “We can only do it for moments at first. But from those moments the new sort of life will be spreading through our system: because now we are letting Him work at the right part of us. It is the difference between paint, which is merely laid on the surface, and a dye or a stain which soaks right through.” (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity)

When God lives and breathes in you, and He does, as surely as He did in Jesus, you are delivered from that dead life.

I'm sure that we all agree that we want to be delivered and we say collectively let the dye or stain soak in now!

OPENING PRAYER

1. PRAY and specifically ask/invite “Holy Spirit” to take up more and more real-estate with you at this very moment and to be the guide and teacher of the room as we discuss and study these verses today.
See the biblical viewpoint on this prayer concept you are asking for.

YHWH – the ultimate teacher. This Hebrew word was translated as “to teach” and YHWH was represented as the ultimate teacher.

Exodus 4:10-15

Then Moses said to YHWH, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." YHWH said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, YHWH? Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you [w-horeh'tika] what you are to say."

PRAY:

So Lord Jesus at this time we ask that your Holy Spirit be our teacher and counselor quickening our spirit and pricking our ears to what you want to breathe into not just our minds but root out and imprint in us at this time all that we need to know to have more of you in our lives. amen

2. Read Romans 8:12-17

WATCH PANEL DISCUSSION VIDEO

3. **What did you hear in the video that really spoke to you?**

What was Dr. Bill Muske meaning when he said *"we have a choice about this obligation, but not to sin. It's a 1, 2 punch, no obligation to flesh but an obligation to the Spirit"*?

Have you WANTED to make God smile today?

What is meant by *"what the one God of Israel had done in the exodus narrative, Paul sees being accomplished in the Spirit"*?

4. **Say out loud to the group who the bible says Jesus is, and now say out loud who you say Jesus is and who He is to you personally.....**

Now after that, can you make the mental connection that we are joint-heirs WITH Jesus Christ?!

You may be a joint heir with your younger brother or sister but Jesus, the Incarnate Son.....?

What emotions does that bring up?

5. **Let's close and recap the video discussion with the question: How did Warren Wiersbe explain that we could have the ABUNDANT VICTORIOUS LIFE that is ours in Christ Jesus?**

Tim Keller, in his commentary on the book of Romans, wrote this:

"Paul is saying that sin can only be cut off at the root if we expose ourselves constantly to the unimaginable love of Christ for us. That experience stimulates a wave of gratitude and a feeling of indebtedness. Sin can only grow in the soil of self-pity and a feeling of "owed-ness". I'm not getting a fair shake! I'm not getting my needs met! I've had a hard life! God owes me; people owe me; I owe me! That's the heart attitude of "owed-ness" or entitlement. But, Paul says, you must

remind yourself that you are a debtor. If you bathe yourself in the remembrance of the grace of God, that will loosen, weaken, and kill sin at the multi-rational level.” (Keller, Romans 8-16 For You, p. 22)

6. Name a concrete current example of this “owed-ness” in our culture today?

Do the same with respect to your own personal thought/sin life?

7. List ways to employ the “unimaginable love of Christ” for you/

8. In the sermon Jerry preached he had a harsh word, that not all human beings are God’s children.

What does the most popular verse in the Bible say (John 3:16)?

9. Read aloud Colossians 1:16

What was created by Him and for Him?

10. So can you concur that being loved and being created does not actually = being a child of God?

11. What about the “Lost” are they “children of God”?

What does Ephesians 2:1-10 say about this?

Do Objects of wrath = children of God?

We did that long exercise as an attempt to grasp the magnitude of being adopted and named a child of God – specifically an heir with Christ Jesus!

12. Read 2 Peter 3:9 (New Living Translation: “*The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.*”

13. In verse 15, Paul writes, “*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’*”

What does the phrase ‘the Spirit you received brought about your adoption’ mean to you?

FF Bruce writes: “*In the Roman world of the 1st Century, an adopted son was deliberately chosen by an adoptive father to perpetuate his name and inherit his estate. He was in no way inferior in status to his son born in the ordinary course of nature, and might enjoy the father’s affection more fully and reproduce the father’s character more worthily.*”

How does that statement make you feel about being “adopted” into God’s family?

How have you experienced God as ‘Abba’ (which means Daddy)?

13. Read verses 16 & 17

***Did you notice the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children..? What do you think of when you hear the word testifies?**

Testify – “to make a solemn declaration, verbal or written, to establish some fact; to give testimony for the purpose of communication to others a knowledge...”

Note* Paul could have used the Greek word for “says”, “tells” or “speaks” but he chose “testifies”.

Further Note* how intimate our God is in that The Holy Spirit is testifying with our spirit that we are God's children! Next time you are in worship just singing or praising like the “frozen chosen” you know, just “going thru the singing motions” please vow to CELEBRATE this enormous fact of verse 16 “For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.”

Debtors, Adopted, Heirs, GLORIFIED WITH CHRIST

WHAT IS YOUR TAKE-AWAY FROM TODAY'S DISCUSSION?

And don't forget to “take 5” every day (First 5 minutes each day, Knees at noon, Christ in your car, Soul Care at sundown and Bow at Bedtime)

Pray together and celebrate the Good News!