

Week of November 21, 2026 - The Spirit of Adoption | Small Group Study 22

Connect

Think about a time when you joined a new school, club, or workplace and the people there immediately treated you like family. What specific things did they do to make you feel like you truly belonged there?

Verses - Romans 8:12-17 (CSB)

Read aloud:

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba,[e] Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. According to vv.12-13, what exactly are we no longer obligated to do, and what does Paul say is the final result for those who continue to live according to the flesh?

2. Looking at v.13 again, Paul says there is a way to live. Factually, what action must we take against the deeds of the body, and who gives us the power to do this?

3. Based on vv.14-15, those led by God's Spirit are called God's sons. Instead of a spirit of slavery that brings fear, what specific Spirit did we receive, and what does this Spirit cause us to cry out to God?

4. In vv.16-17, the Spirit testifies that we are God's children and heirs. Factually, who are we coheirs with, and what condition does Paul mention is necessary if we are to also be glorified with Him?

Share

Discuss 1

Pastor Takeshi mentioned that when he left his job at the animal clinic, he was no longer obligated to obey his old boss if he called him to work. Since we are no longer obligated to obey the flesh, why do you think we sometimes still listen to our old sinful nature when it tries to boss us around?

Discuss 2

Pastor Takeshi shared the Roman custom of adoption, where all old debts were completely cancelled and the child received all the rights of the new family. How does knowing that God has completely erased your past mistakes change the way you approach Him when you pray?

Minister to one another through PRAYER sharing *specific* prayer requests.