

**Monday, August 21, 2023 • Read Romans 8:16–17**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who is acting in v16? How does the text emphasize this? What is He doing? With what? What is He bearing witness that we are? Of Whom is He bearing witness that we are children? What does being children mean that we are (v17)? Of Whom are we heirs? With Whom do we jointly do this? What else do we jointly do with Him? Then what will we jointly do with Him?*

**How does the Holy Spirit minister our adoption to us?** Romans 8:16–17 looks forward to the midweek sermon. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Holy Spirit agrees with us as we cry Abba, convincing us of our status as God's heirs and of our union with Christ by which we came into that status.**

**The Spirit Who bears witness.** In v15, we learned that all believers come to cry out, "Abba, Father." Why? Because all believers are led along by the Spirit, and this is a necessary part of what He leads us to do. But then the Spirit adds His own voice ("The Spirit *Himself*") to ours ("with our spirit") that we are children of God. As He makes these agreements with our own spirit, the Holy Spirit makes fresh communications to us of the love of God that He pours out in our hearts like a drink offering (cf. 5:5)

**The Father Who adopts and bequeaths.** Our relationship to the Father was asserted in v14 ("these are the sons of God") and affirmed in v15 as His own Spirit teaches us to call Him Father. But how "full" is this sonship? How entire is our adoption? Entirely! We are not only children but heirs. Not only does God bestow upon us the status of children, but He bequeaths to us His estate! Pause for a moment, dear Christian reader, and consider this: "God is so truly and entirely my Father that He has bequeathed to me His estate." Of course the great thing in God's estate is... God Himself! And, together with Him, He bequeaths to us all things (cf. v32, 1Cor 3:21–23).

**The Son Who suffers and inherits.** But how can God bequeath His estate to His adopted children, when it belongs already to His only-begotten Son? Because His Son has welcomed us to be united to Him. We do not (indeed, we cannot) inherit by ourselves, but only as a joint action with Christ. And in order to welcome us into union with Himself, Christ Himself had to become a Sufferer. Now, He has suffered once for all through His union with us—a suffering in which He atoned for our sins. And, He continues to join with us, by virtue of His union with us, in our suffering. How this sweetens all sufferings to us to know that it is an area of Christ's particular focus in His union with us.

This jointly being heirs and jointly suffering is joined by one more joint endeavor: being glorified. Now here is something marvelous: Christ is inalterably glorious forever in His person as the divine Son. And He has already been resurrected with a glorious body and seated upon the throne of glory. But He reserves the final crowning glory to share with us: when He is glorified in His bride as He presents Her to Himself glorious in the last day. Then, glorified as her Savior, Who has completed her salvation, He seats her with Himself to judge men and angels in glory. The church, indeed, is a marvel; and, how marvelous her Redeemer Who makes her so!

Dear believer, what wonders there are in your adoption! May you know the ministry of the Spirit Who communicates them to you.

**What is going on when you call God "Father"? When you suffer? What will happen in the last day? With Whom?**

*Sample prayer: Father, we thank You for adopting us; and, Lord Jesus, we thank You for uniting us to Yourself. And we thank You for Your Spirit. Grant that He would minister to us our adoption and our union with Christ, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP45B "Daughter, Incline Your Ear" or TPH400 "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"**

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Romans chapter 8 verses 16 and 17. These are God's words. The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit. That we are children of god. And if children then heirs, Heirs of god and joint heirs with christ. If indeed, we suffer with him. That we also may be glorified. Together.

So we heard in verses 14 and 15 about our adoption, That the spirit ministers are adoption to us. He leads us. As it were all the way home. Convinces us, that God is our father, he convinces us and brings us to faith. In the lord, jesus christ makes us to know our union with him by taking jesus's own.

Words. And putting them in our hearts and mouth. That we might call god, our abba. Then the very word with which jesus, Called him father and his earthly life. And so the spirit is ministering to us. Or adoption. And one particular way that he does that then is that he bears witness?

With our spirit that we our children of god. So in verse 15, he makes our hearts cry out, abba father. And then we find out in verse 16. That he also agrees with us. As we cry out our father, the spirit himself, Bears, witness with our spirit. Says verse 16.

So he adds his own voice To the cry of our hearts to the cry of our voice. Saying that we are the children of god. As he makes these agreements with our own spirit. Not only has he given us to recognize that God is our father so that we would know his love for us.

By the ministry of the spirit within us. We find our own hearts recognizing God as our father. But then the spirit also, ministers to us by agreeing by confirming. And so this is him making fresh communication to the love of god of the love of god to us. So we're saying god, you are my father And the spirit is saying, within our hearts confirming within our heart and within our mind.

Yes. Yes, god is your father. You are his son. He is. Bearing witness, he himself. Verse 16. Is bearing witness with our spirit. And you remember, then, of course, from chapter 5 and verse 5, i hope you remember at least That is the spirit who pours out the love of god in our hearts, this is why hope does not disappoint us.

We had heard back in chapter 5 because the spirit is continually pouring out in our hearts. He has bored out but it's a, it's a Has poured that has present ongoing because the love of god never runs out. And so he's continually pouring, the exhaustible Love of god. Out in our hearts.

And this is one of the great ways that he doesn't, he bears witness with our spirit. Well, not only does the spirit then bear witness with our spirit but the father Not only adopts us but bestows upon us, bestows upon us. The inheritance. That belongs to a proper son of god.

So, the spirit affirms that we are proper. Son of god by bearing witness with our spirit and god affirms that we are a proper son of god, by writing us into his will, as it were, By bequea thing upon us. The status of air. And so, The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit, what that we, our children of god.

And now verse 17 and if children then heirs heirs Of god. Our relationship to the father as a surgeon. In verse 14. And it's affirmed in our hearts in verse 15 and we've just heard that the spirit agrees and the firms it in verse 16. But now in verse 17, we see how full How true complete entire that sunship is.

We are not only children, but heirs, not only does god bestow upon us, the status of children, He bequeaths to us, his estate. He hasn't just giving us a title. The way i'm a lord in scotland. Where i just have the title of the name. But he has given us all of the privileges.

That come with it. I can't vote. In the house of lords in the In the british parliament, i have no. Um, I have no ability to pass on the parcel of land that. That i hold. Title in name only. To any of you. So i don't have really. A full lordship.

But we do have a full adoption. In. The lord jesus christ by his spirit to the father. We are heirs. Consider this god is so truly an entirely. Your father That he has bequeathed to you. The state. Of course, the great thing is that god's estate includes god himself.

Is more than all of his other gifts. And the great birthright, the great inheritance that belongs to the sun is The full pleasure of the father. And that is what we have. And, you know, All of a new heavens and a new earth are kind of thrown in as uh, That's an ancillary benefit.

But we have god, we have himself. Yes, sophia Because we have to play in heaven.

We always pray honey because Um, Because god is glorified as the one who hears us and the one who answers us. It gives to us to know that he is everywhere. He gives to us to know that he can hear everything. And knows everything. He gives to us to know that you can do everything.

You must never pray to anyone else. Because when you pray, you're acknowledging. That the one that you pray to, Yes. Um, on the present, omniscient omnipotent, he is god. And so, of course, We cry out to god in heaven. Because, Everyone everywhere whether in heaven or on earth must always worship god.

Well, i'm great thing about when we are in heaven. Is that we will be holy so we will do what we should do. And we'll do it in the way that we should do it. I'm glad that we get to pray in heaven because my entire time praying on earth, i haven't been doing it rightly.

And i'm grateful for jesus. Who mediates it? And that spirit who helps me and also intercedes for me. What one day i will pray. Just like my lord, jesus. And so we'll pray in heaven. Um,

And if we have god himself, if we have christ himself then all things Belong to us, as God tells us towards the end of first corinthians chapter 3, Where he says all things are ours because we belong to christ and christ belongs to God. And so verse 32 is going to say, He who did not spare.

Verse 32 of this chapter is going to say, he who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all. How will he not also together with him freely? Give us all things. And so we have the spheritude bears witness and the father had equates. And then we have the sun.

The son, who suffers with us and inherits with us, how can god bequeath as a state, to his adopted children? When it belongs already to his only begotten son. And the answer to that, how can we receive that? Which belongs to jesus is because jesus was glad Jesus was pleased to unite us to himself.

So we are joint heirs with jesus christ heirs together with christ. If indeed we are sufferers together That we may also be. Uh, being glorifiers together. Uh, the reason is that, that way is because we actually have three verbs here. All of which have prefixed to them. Uh, the greek prefix for together with And so, yes.

We have errors of god. It's not like jesus is going to lose his inheritance, that's, of course, impossible in order for us to become the heirs of god, we have to be united to jesus, so we can be joined inheritors with him. And jesus. When a chord with his human nature.

Actually, will not. Uh, take the The final fullness of his estate until we take it together with him. And so, there is For all. The glory that the lord jesus already has. There's a final. Glory. There's a final. Day in, which he receives the The complete. Fullness of that, which is his.

And that which is Earned and won. And he is going to receive it with us. We are going to receive it with him. We are joint heirs. With him and therefore, we'll be jointly glorified with him. But the amazing thing. Is that well, another amazing thing that the amazing thing.

Another amazing thing is that. In order for him to be united to us. It was required that the lord jesus suffer. And not only that suffering which he did in himself. That is counted for us and union with him on the cross. That was the great suffering that was required of him.

But he is still united with us. While we are persecuted while we are needy. He is united to us. And in our suffering he sympathizes in our suffering. When we are attacked, he is attacked You remember what he told? Pharisee saw paul. When he is on his way. To Damascus saw saw, why are you?

Persecuting me. And so the amazing thing. Is that the lord jesus continues to be a joint sufferer with us. Until suffering itself is destroyed. For us. So, Christ has already been resurrected as a glorious body sets upon The throne of glory. But he's reserving that final crowding, glory. To share with us, when he Um, Finishes.

Are suffering with us. And this for us, in the time of our suffering. I can. Can sweeten it much to you. If you will remember. That the lord jesus is united you to himself. And that you go through the suffering in union with them. And it's a for an area of particular focus.

In his union with us. Not just that we would be heirs together, not just that we would be glorified together. But even Uh, we suffer together. With him. He's united to us in our suffering. So there are all these wonders. In our adoption. And, But we were joist to know the spirit.

Poo bears. Witness The father. The equates, the estate upon us. And the sun. Those united us to himself. That we might not only inherit with him, but in between time, While we still have suffering. We suffer together with him. Then praise God. Let's pray.

Father, we thank you that you have. Not only brought us into this adoption but you have Especially given us your spirit. Who not only carried the apostle. Along this, he wrote these words from you. But who helps us to know the truth to know the reality. You do pray for ourselves for this ministry of your spirit.

That he would make us to know the truth to know the reality. Of our adoption. We pray, especially lord for those who are Believers in our church. And, You are not perceiving experiencing reality that you're Spirit would overcome and overpower. All of that, which resists And, We pray lord for those who don't know the reality because it's not a reality.

Appropriate that in their case, your spirit would give them life. And light and faith, and the lord jesus christ. Help us to know ourselves as your heirs to Marvel of your

father, your fatherly love. Help us. To know our union with christ. That we would rejoice, not just to be heirs but The marvel that we get to be joint inheritors with him.

It's something we do with him. And we do pray that you would even sweeten to us. Our sufferings. By the reminder. That these come together. With him. Union with him as well. So write your word on our hearts. We ask and help us in the rest of this day.

To live, according to this word, according to these truths this reality Which we ask in jesus name, amen.