

Heirs Of God

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Rom. 8:14-18

Rom. 8:14-18, *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

How grateful we should be that we are the children of God. 1 John 3:1, *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”*

There is great love for a person to take an orphan child, adopt him, and give him a home. God has given us this valuable token of His affection by adopting us into His family, and allowing us to regard Him as our heavenly Father.

Because of our relationship with the Father, we are considered by Him as being even greater than John the Baptist. Matt. 11:11, *“Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”*

What are the conditions of becoming God’s children?

Not ancestry.

Some people delight in boasting of their ancestry.

One such person proudly told Will Rogers that his ancestors came over on the Mayflower. Will Rogers told him, “My ancestors met the Mayflower.”

Many of the Jews in Jesus’ day were unduly proud of their ancestry.

- Matt. 3:9, *“And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”*

- John 8:32-33, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?”*

They thought that they had a ticket to glory because they were descendants of Abraham.

Not wisdom.

So-called wise men today think that it is foolish to lean upon a God.

- Prov. 3:5, *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”*
- Jer. 9:23, *“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches.”*
- 1 Cor. 1:25-31, *“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”*

With all of our learning, we are but simpletons before God.

The world has had its Thomas Edison’s and Henry Ford’s, but with all of the conveniences they have brought us, there is nothing they have given us through which we can claim kinship with God.

Not because you can pray long prayers and make contributions of large amounts of money.

- Matt. 23:14-19, *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you,*

scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?"

- *Matt. 23:23-27, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."*

One can become a child of God only by being "born again."

John 3:3-5, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

The process is also referred to in the New Testament as being "converted." *Matt. 18:3, "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."*

It is also the doing of God's will. *Matt. 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."*

It is the becoming of a new creature.

- *Gal. 3:27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*

- 2 Cor. 5:17, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”
- Rom. 6:3-4, “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*”

As being God’s children, we are made to be His heirs.

Rom. 8:17, “*And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*”

“And if children, then heirs.”

That is, if we are born again we are adopted into God’s family, and made heirs; therefore, we shall be treated as sons and daughters, and shall be privileged to share the favors of the family of God.

“heirs of God.”

So, we shall all be partakers of that inheritance which God confers upon His children.

As children of God, we receive His favor and blessings here and now; but the inheritance awaits us in the eternal hereafter when we move into the new home that is being prepared for us.

This is an honor much higher than to be the heir of even the most princely earthly inheritance, or than to be the adopted son or daughter of the most magnificent earthly monarch.

“and joint-heirs with Christ.”

That is, co-heirs with Him — sharing with Christ.

Jesus is the Son of God, and as such He is the heir to the full honors and glory of heaven.

But Christians are united with Him; they are His brethren; hence, they are also partakers of His glory and honor.

We are sons of God in a different sense than what Jesus is. He is God's Son by a much higher relation; but we are God's children by adoption, yet still the idea of sonship is there.

“if so be that we suffer with him.”

If we suffer for His cause and bear afflictions for His sake, we then show that we are united with Him.

We don't suffer in the same extent that Jesus did, but we can imitate Him in the same spirit in which He bore His sufferings for us.

- Acts 14:22, *“Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”*
- 1 Pet. 4:13, *“But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”*

“that we may be also glorified together.”

If we are united with Him in the same kind of sufferings, we can expect to be united with Him in the same kind of destiny — beyond all sufferings and trials.

- Phil. 3:10, *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”*
- 2 Tim. 2:11-12, *“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:”*
- 2 Tim. 3:12, *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”*

Some of the things to which we are heirs.

Heirs of His grace (favor).

- Rom. 5:1-2, *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”*
- Rom. 10:17, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

- Titus 2:11-12, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world,”

His plan of salvation is His gift of favor to His children.

If we know of some rich man we would like to hear him say of us, “You’re my friend; if I can ever help you in any way, just let me know.”

We already have a friend who is capable of bestowing unto us far greater favors. The ever-available favor of God should mean far more to us than anything else in this world.

Heb. 4:14-16, “*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*”

Heirs of salvation.

Heb. 1:14, “*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*”

Salvation through Christ is God’s objective in the plan of redemption.

- Eph. 1:10, “*That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.*”
- 2 Tim. 2:10, “*Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*”
- Titus 2:11, “*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*”

Heirs of His promises.

- Gal. 3:29, “*And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*”
- Heb. 6:17, “*Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath.*”

Men sometimes make promises they cannot keep, but not so with God. 2 Pet. 3:9, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

Heirs of the kingdom.

- James 2:5, *“Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?”*
- John 14:15, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”*

Many from small oppressed countries have had to flee for their lives, and their heirship to their government has been denied them, but we are heirs to God’s kingdom in a real sense.

If we have the quality of life which Christ expressed in the Beatitudes, we possess the kingdom and it possesses us. Matt. 5:3, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Heirs of eternal life.

- Titus 3:7, *“That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*
- 1 Pet. 1:4-5, *“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*
- 1 Pet. 1:9, *“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”*
- 1 John 2:25, *“And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.”*

Why are people’s names inscribed on tombstones? That their names might live on; so that we would remember them.

Men sometimes leave an endowment in their name, or their name might be inscribed on some cornerstone of a building. What should be more important to us than our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life?

- Luke 10:20, *“... rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”*

- Phil. 4:3, “*And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.*”
- Heb. 12:23, “*To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,*”

So, if we are faithful children of God, our names shall live on and on; and when our bodies are decayed by reason of death, our souls shall live on forever in the blessed society of the redeemed.

Heirs to all things.

Rev. 21:7, “*He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*” Here John sums it all up.

Just think if you were an heir to the throne of some great nation. But, as children of God, you are heirs to everything in the kingdom of heaven; you are heirs to “*all things*” of eternity.

Conclusion.

Doesn't it mean something to you to be a child of God?

Doesn't it make you rejoice and be glad for such an exalted relationship?

Why should we complain about our service to Him? There are some of His children who try to get by with as little work as possible, and fuss as if they are somehow being inconvenienced.

Those who do little work often find themselves getting into trouble.

When I was a child of the family farm, there were certain chores that I was expected to do (milk the cows, feed the chickens, work in the garden, work in the sawmill, etc.). The neighborhood children thought my parents were too tough on us. They didn't have much responsibility, and they were the ones who kept getting into trouble in the community, doing things they shouldn't be doing.

Being God's children, there is no job too big for us. We need to face up to our responsibility; accept the challenges and trials before us.

- Rom. 8:31, “*What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*”

- 2 Cor. 9:8, “*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.*”
- Phil. 4:13, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*”

Those that are not God’s children are denying themselves of the joys and peace of the Christian life, as well as the heritage that awaits God’s children in eternity.

If you have all the wealth and fame of the world, and are not a child of God, you are a loser.

But God cannot use you until you are willing to bow in humble submission to His will. How can we be adopted heirs of His? The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn’t work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”
- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” Acts 11:18, “*... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*” If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, “There’s a burglar in my house!” So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, “I’m sorry; I’m sorry!” What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true

repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.

- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are **“UNTO”** righteousness, life, or salvation. “Unto” means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, *“But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said *“it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.”* We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? *“for the remission of sins”*. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and”*

wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.*

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

Are you an heir of God now? If not, won't you consider it today?

