

# In the Name of Jesus

Adoption

Romans 8:14-17

## Romans 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

God our Father

Who is he?

God Our Father  
All Powerful

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”  
*Genesis 1:1*

“knit us together in our mother’s wombs” *Psalm 139:13*

“in him we live and move and have our being” *Acts 17:23*

“all things were created through him and for him. And he is  
before all things, and in him all things hold together”  
*Colossians 1:16b-17*

## God Our Father Holy & Just

“Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?” *Exodus 15:11*

“Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgement.” *Psalms 51:4*

“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.” *Deuteronomy 32:4*

- God Tolerates no Sin
- The Law is an illustration of how we cannot measure up

God Our Father  
Loving and Merciful

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:8*

- God does not repay what we deserve
- We can approach God with confidence as children

# Adoption

What does it mean?

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

*Romans 8:14*

Adoption

Who is Adopted?

Romans 8:14

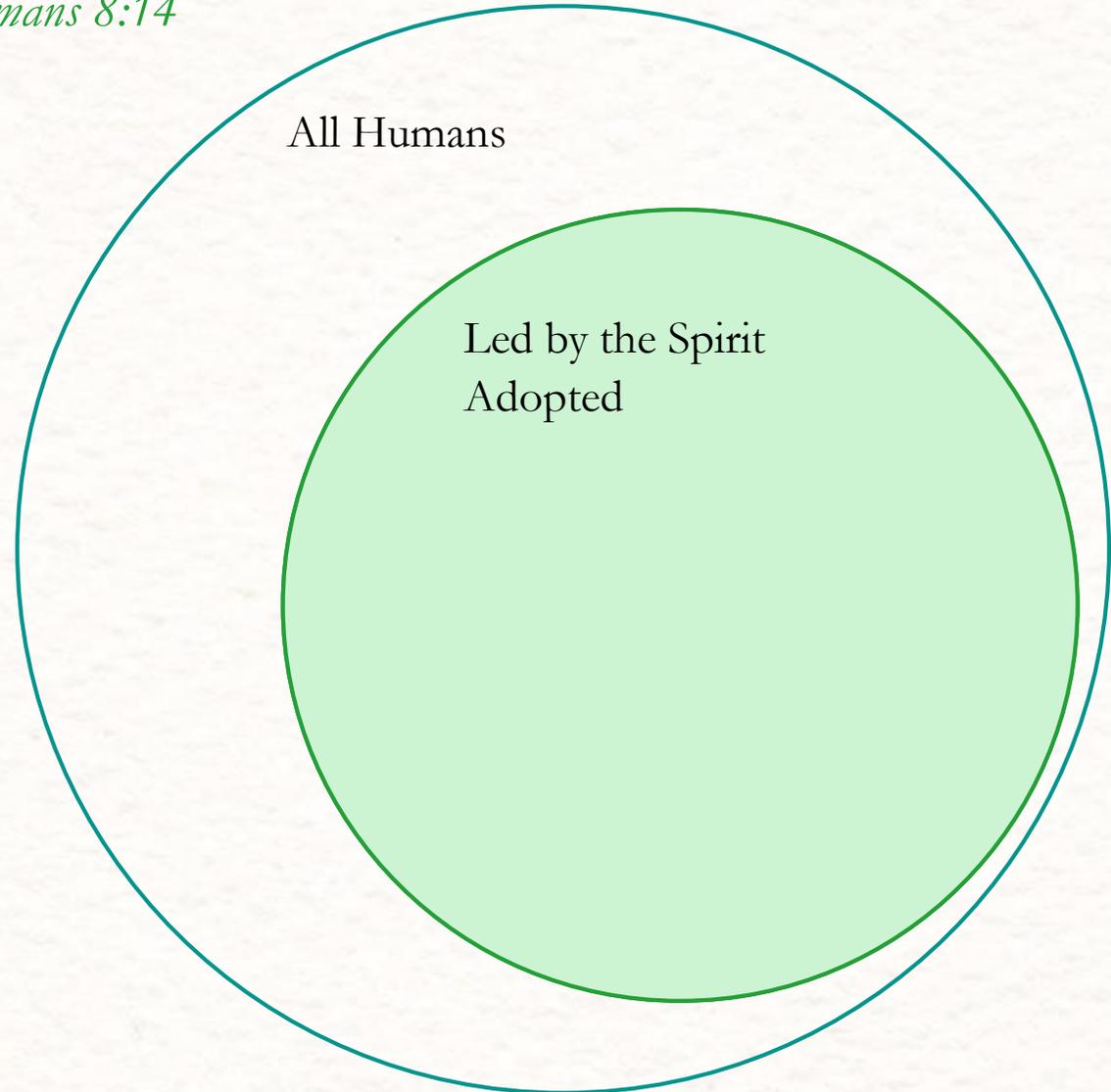
Adoption

## Who is Adopted?

Romans 8:14

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

*Romans 8:14*



Adoption  
Spirit of Fear  
Romans 8:15

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ ” *Romans 8:15*

### Fear

- Fear of God
  - Awe of his perfection and holiness
- Fear of Judgement
  - Whether aware of it or not, we know that we fall short of God’s standard
  - The penalty is death and judgement – eternal separation from God

Adoption  
Spirit of Adoption  
Romans 8:15

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ ” *Romans 8:15*

### Adoption

- God regenerates our hearts and conforms us to Christ
- We have confidence to approach Him
- Adoption was a common idea in the Roman world

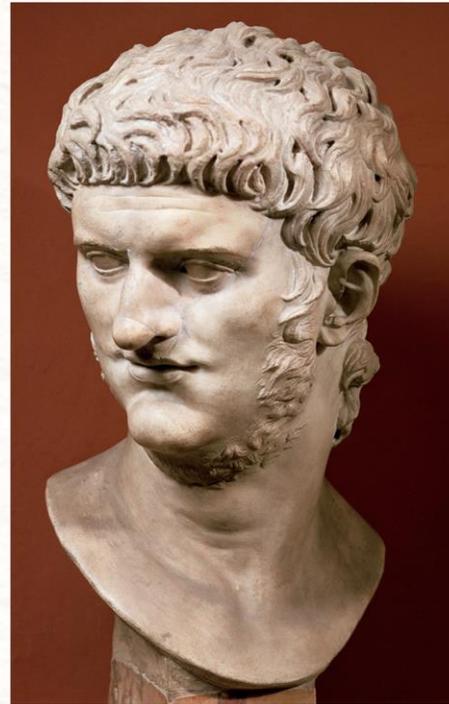
# Roman Emperors



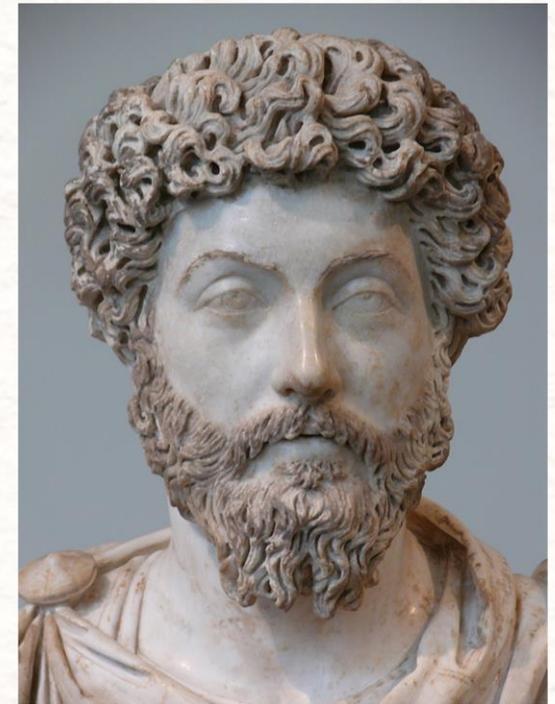
Augustus



Tiberius



Nero



Marcus Aurelius

Adoption  
**Roman Adoption**  
Historical Context

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,” *Ephesians 1:7*

### Debts were Cancelled

- Old life – and crimes – forgotten
- Financial debts cancelled
- We have a far greater debt
  - Our debt is paid, not cancelled
  - Jesus paid our debt with his blood – the most valuable currency
- We could not be adopted with our debt

Adoption  
**Roman Adoption**  
Historical Context

“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?” *Hebrews 12:7*

### Authority over the Adopted

- *Patria potestas*
  - Latin: “power of a father”
  - Complete authority, even over life and death
- We are under God’s authority
  - God disciplines us as sons
  - His discipline shows us that we are legitimate

# Adoption

## Roman Adoption

Historical Context

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”  
*2 Corinthians 5:21*

### Adoption of Merit

- Adoptive son had to deserve adoption
  - Father wanted a son who could bring honour to his house and continue his dynasty
- We have no merit in ourselves
  - We are not adopted *in spite* of our merit
  - Jesus’ righteousness is counted as ours

Adoption  
Witness of the  
Spirit  
Romans 8:16

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,” *Romans 8:16*

God is With Us

- No longer do we live in fear
- God, the Holy Spirit:
  - Dwells within us.
  - Sanctifies us
  - Guides us into all truth

Adoption  
Witness of the  
Spirit  
Romans 8:16

“sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance” *Ephesians 1:13*

### Assurance of Our Salvation

- Seals in the Roman World
  - Symbol of authenticity
  - Guarantee of the originator of the message
  - Sealed message had not been tampered with
- We are sealed by the Holy Spirit
  - God places his mark of ownership on us
  - We are his forever!
- All the persons of the Godhead are involved
  - God the Father draws us
  - God the Son’s work saves us
  - God the Spirit seals us for inheritance.

Adoption  
Heirs with Christ  
Romans 8:17

“we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

*Romans 8:17*

### Purpose of Roman Adoption

- Sons were adopted to inherit all the father had
- The son inherited
  - Rights to property
  - Prestige
  - Power

## Adoption Heirs with Christ

Romans 8:17

“we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” *Romans 8:17 - 18*

### Our Inheritance in Christ

- Counted as full children of God
  - As children we are promised an inheritance
- We must suffer for Christ in this world
  - Our sufferings are nothing compared with future glory
- We are co-heirs with Christ
  - We don't only get the leftovers but the full inheritance with Christ
  - We will be glorified with Him

So What?

Where do we go from here?

So What?  
Obedience

Obedience

- Submit to God's authority.
- Holy Spirit continues to sanctify us
  - “holy and blameless and above reproach” *Colossians 1:22*

## So What? Representation

### Representation

- We bear the seal of God
  - Represent his Name to the world
  - “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus” *2 Corinthians 5:20*
- When the father was absent, the son was able to stand in for the father
- We are to represent God’s character to the unbeliever
  - Live a life consistent with scripture
  - Teach sound doctrine
- Holy Spirit give us wisdom and strength

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” *Matthew 5:16*

## Romans 8:37-39

“we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”