

Living As Children of God Romans 8:12-17

There are three great affirmations about the Christian in this section of Scripture. Each one of these, on its own, should lead us to marvel at the grace of God. Yet God's grace comes in abundance. Go slowly through this passage and let its truths sink in deep.

For EVERY Christian, you are....

1. Empowered by God the Holy Spirit
2. Adopted by God the Father
3. Co-heirs with Jesus, the Son of God.

Do you see the presence of the Trinity in those statements? The presence of the Trinity is abundant in Scripture. This is a great theological reality that is easy to miss. God exists as three persons and He is very involved in your life. This is so majestic that it is beyond our full comprehension and we have to stand in awe of God.

You need to move beyond the performance orientation that you learned from your culture. The most significant thing about your life is not what you have done, are doing or will do. The most significant thing about your life is what God has done, is doing and will do.

These words in Romans 8 contain some of the most exciting realities about the Christian life. Here's the difference all of this can make:

You get practical, everyday leading from God. v14 – led by the Holy Spirit
You get a fearless intimacy with God. v15 – call Him Father, or Dad
A confident assurance of belonging to God. v16 – inner witness of the Holy Spirit
And even a clear statement of your inheritance from God. v17 – co-heir with Jesus

Your assurance of salvation is not based on performance but on the outworking of your identity in Christ.

1. You have a desire to put to death the sin in your life.
The presence of the movement toward holiness is an assurance of salvation.
Christians should have a healthy dissatisfaction with their own spiritual maturity.

2. The internal witness of the Holy Spirit.
This is subjective. This is not mood or feeling. This is relationship.
One of the responsibilities of the Holy Spirit is to tell you that you belong to God and have been adopted.

Objective evidence: Spiritual growth. This evidence that you and others can see.
Subjective evidence: Inner witness of the Holy Spirit. God moves you, convicts you, affirms you.

From the EFCA statement of faith:

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.