

Apr 24/22 Small Group – Leader’s Guide - Read Romans 8:14-17

1. In Roman society, a son was the heir of the family name and estate. In this context, Paul calls Christians "sons of God". What does it mean for a Christian to be an heir of God's Name and Estate?

Our identity is changed to bear God's character and His mission in the world. Sons take on apprenticeship according to their father's trade. We take on God's business to bring about the new creation in the world. In other words, we have the privilege of working out the fruition of our future inheritance.

2. Before our adoption in Christ, Paul described our former circumstance as being in slavery to fear. How do we as Christians today experience our falling back to slavery to fear?

We can live in functional fear and anxiety despite how God has provided for us, how we are forgiven in Christ, how we are already loved. We can fall back to a pattern and to the former habits of our sin, self-reliance, and competition.

3. By the Spirit, we cry out to God as "Abba! Father!" How do we by the Spirit live into our adoption as God's children?

The Holy Spirit's primary responsibility is to remind us of the words of Jesus and to put a spotlight on the person and work of Jesus. As the Spirit reminds us and shows us Jesus anew, we can apprehend our Christ-given right and privilege of calling God as Father.

4. Our destiny as adopted children is towards the glory of the new creation. But the path to glory is through suffering. How do we "suffer with Christ" to glory?

We suffer in this life as the price we pay and the cost we bear for being and living as God's children, children who work out God's business in the world. There will be opposition. And there are the pains and losses that everyone experiences in a broken world. But our sufferings have ultimate meaning and goal just as the cross of Jesus made meaning out of Christ's suffering and death.