

Nov 13 - Romans 8:12–27—“Children of God”—Dr John Oakes

The Bible offers many descriptions of what it means to be a Christian, who has turned to Christ in repentance and faith and accepted him as Saviour and Lord. One of the most powerful is “children of God” or members of God’s family. It may take a lifetime to grasp the full implications, especially when we take account of the cosmic understanding of salvation and redemption which the apostle Paul presents in Romans 8:12–27.

(The following questions are intended to facilitate open-ended discussion.)

1. What does it mean to be “children of God” (v. 14) and how can we know that we are?
2. How are we adopted heirs of God and what is our inheritance with Christ?
3. How has creation fallen/been “subjected to futility” (v. 20)? What are the consequences and what part has humanity played in them?
4. In what sense do we “groan inwardly as we wait for our adoption as ‘sons and daughters’ of God, the redemption of our bodies” (v. 23)?
5. How does the Holy Spirit “intercede for the saints” (v. 27)? How do we experience this in our own lives?