



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Risen with Christ: Adopted Children in God's Family**

**Speaker: Sherin Swift, Pastor of Connections & Equipping**

**Scripture: Romans 8:14-17**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

*Romans 8:14-17 (NRSV)*

### **Sermon Outline:**

In this week's scripture passage of Romans 8, we are looking at the idea of adoption. Paul is referring to the fact we are adopted children in Christ. Over the past few weeks, we have also talked about the truth that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus and that our obedience to Christ Jesus flows out of our acceptance, and our acceptance fuels our obedience.

Paul uses the image of enslavement in these verses, talking about how we are prone to fear due to our sin. He tells us that we are enslaved to sin. When we are under the power of sin, we become more prone and vulnerable to sin. Paul contrasts this with underlying issue, which is the issue of our identity.

Paul uses the metaphor of enslavement with adoption. When he uses the idea of adoption in these verses, Paul is referring to adoption in the highest level of society during the time when he wrote this scripture.

### **Embracing our adoption in Christ frees us from the grip of fear.**

Some differences between an enslaved person and an adopted child were:

- Enslaved person was dependent on a master, where the adopted child was dependent on a parent(s).
- Enslaved person's identity was based on their work and productivity, the adopted child's identity was based on their name and relationship.
- Enslaved person could be released at any time from their work, the adopted child was a permanent member of the household.

Where do you see yourself in the differences listed above – as an enslaved person or an adopted child? How are you functioning in the house of God?

Do you define a good day strictly by how productive you are at work or how much you get done on a given day? Are you afraid if you make the wrong mistake that this will put you outside of God's love? Is it hard for you to believe that God is a different type of parent than your own parents? Locating where you are is important because this is the growing edge of your life where you can invite God to come in and help heal you.

It is because we are children of God that we can walk in this assurance of faith, directly from the spirit of God himself. The courage for us to combat fear comes from our status as children of God. We are to be fearless in our walk with God. We need to be free to believe that God has our best interests at heart and that He is always looking out for us.

Paul does caution in these verses that this is not all easy. That there will share in the good times as well as the difficult times. We will share in the inheritance to come and find profound joy in the family of Christ.

We do not have to continue living like enslaved people. Our lives in Christ are to be free from fear, where we want the Spirit of God to dominate, not the spirit of fear.

### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Sherin Swift, Pastor of Connections & Equipping continues in our sermon series Risen with Christ through the Book of Romans. Today, Pastor Sherin discusses the truth that we are Adopted Children in God's Family, and how our identity as a child in God's family liberates us from fear and condemnation.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, did you grow up with a sense of fear due to instability in your family? Or did you grow up in a secure environment knowing that you were in your family growing up? How does your experience inform how you live your life today? Do you carry around a sense of fear about your life, or do you live in a space of trust and acceptance?
3. How do you feel when you hear that we are to be fearless in our walk with God? Are you afraid to do the things that God has called you to do? Are you afraid of making a mistake or saying the wrong thing at the wrong time? What would your life look like and how would it change, if you weren't afraid, and living with a sense of fear? Find time to journal about this during the week, offering up your feelings about this to God.
4. How would the way you serve God change if you lived your life without fear? How would you step out in faith? Would you be more generous with your finances? Would you be more patient with those around you? Sit in silence offering this up to God and asking for help to live without fear.