

Heir Force: Living by the Spirit in God's Family

Text: Romans 8:12-17

Context - Paul has taken us through Justification in Romans 3:21-5:21, Sanctification in 6:1-8:11, and now Glorification in Romans 8:12-39.

Being an heir with Christ will press you to...

I. _____ your debt to the Spirit (vs. 12-13)

- A. "We are debtors - We owe it as a matter of solemn obligation. This obligation arises, (1) From the fact that the Spirit dwells in us; (2) Because the design of his indwelling is to purify us; (3) Because we are thus recovered from the death of sin to the life of religion; and he who has imparted life, has a right to require that it be spent in his service." (Matthew Henry Commentary)
- B. "Because of all Christ has done for us, and because we are now 'alive in the spirit' with the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, our obligation is to live accordingly—to mortify the deeds of the body through the Spirit. Our debt is to God's grace, not to our sinful flesh." (Martin Lloyd Jones)

II. _____ your true relationship to God the Father (vs. 14-16)

- A. "By the Spirit we are brought into the most intimate relationship with God, as His children, crying 'Abba, Father,' which expresses both dependence and affection." (Charles Spurgeon)
- B. "To be led by the Spirit is to know God as Father, not as a taskmaster. The Spirit of adoption frees us from fear and fills us with the assurance of God's fatherly love." (RC Sproul)

III. _____ with Christ for the result of glorification (vs. 17)

- A. "Suffering with Christ is not optional for the Christian; it is the pathway to glorification. The Spirit assures us that our present trials lead to eternal glory." (John Piper Sermon: The Spirit-Led Are the Sons of God)
- B. "We are joint-heirs with Christ, and the path to glory is through suffering. No cross, no crown; but the Spirit assures us the glory to come far outweighs the pain." (Charles Spurgeon)