



The Lord's Day Morning — December 8, 2024  
Second Sunday of Advent

“God’s Gifts: Adoption as Children of God”

Romans 8:12–17

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This Advent season, we are studying God’s gifts to His people, to humanity, as Romans describes. Our theme verse is 8:32 “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”

1. The context for adoption: confidence and doubts in Romans 6–8
  
2. Not debtors to sin; children of God (8:12–13)
  - The death of sin
  
3. Led by the Spirit, God adopts us as sons and daughters. (8:14–15)
  - We say “Abba, Father” (8:15)
  
4. We are children and heirs. (8:16–17)
  - We wait for the full experience of our adoption. (8:17b–18)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

1. Describe adoption as we experience it in America. Compare it to adoption in Scripture. Why is the difference important and life-giving?
2. What are the privileges of God's adopted children? Are you making use of them?
3. Do you ever feel like a debtor to sin? How do you try to put sin to death (8:13)? How does Romans 8 teach us to attack sin?
4. If you have self-doubts or a sense of "not belonging", how does the gift of adoption speak to you and help you as a disciple?