

ROMANS
OUR MESSAGE TO THE WORLD
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2015-2016

Tell Me: Who Are You?

Romans 8:12-17

January 14, 2016

Purpose of Romans: That God would be glorified by a united, missional church humbled under grace.

Outline of Romans:

Coming Under Grace (chapters 1-4)

The Overflow of Grace (chapters 9-11)

Living Under Grace (chapters 5-8)

A Church Shaped by Grace (chapters 12-16)

:12-14 **I. Who are you?**

You are a son of God whom the Spirit of God leads to foster the family resemblance.

A. A new identity

¹⁴ *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

One definition of adoption: Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number of the sons of God and have a right to all the privileges of being a son.

- Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 34

B. A new leader

¹⁴ *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

C. A new mandate

¹³ *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

John Stott writes: Mortification is neither masochism (taking pleasure in self-inflicted pain), nor asceticism (resenting and rejecting the fact that we have bodies and natural bodily appetites)." Rather it is recognition of evil as evil that leads us "to such a decisive and radical repudiation of it that no imagery can do it justice except 'putting to death'" (Stott, p. 228).

D. A new motive

¹² *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

:15-17 **II. What difference should your new identity make in your life?**

God calls you as His son to embrace and enjoy the following privileges...

A. A new intimacy with God (v.15)

1. The freeness of this intimacy

¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery... but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons*

2. The power of this intimacy
¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons...*

3. The nature of this intimacy
^{15c} *...by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

The cry of Abba is neither ecstatic praise nor cozy sentimentality, but rather it is a cry of agony in the heat of battle (7:24), the same as the cry that Jesus made at Gethsemane (Mark 14:36) – a cry of trust in seemingly overwhelming circumstances. - *Dick Lucas*

If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. - *J.I. Packer*

B. A new family (v.15)

¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

Our salvation is not simply a transition out of condemnation into acceptance, but out of bondage and destitution into the safety, certainty, and enjoyment of the family of God.

C. A new assurance (v.16)

¹⁶ *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...*

The Law scolds us, sin screams at us, death thunders at us, the devil roars at us. In the midst of the clamor, the Spirit of Christ cries in our hearts: "Abba, Father." – *Martin Luther*

Assurance sets a child of God free from this painful kind of bondage. It enables him to feel that the great business of life is a settled business, the great debt is a paid debt, the great disease is a healed disease, and the great work is a finished work; and all other business, diseases, debts and works are then by comparison small. In this way assurance makes him patient in tribulation, calm during times of grief and sorrow, not afraid of bad news, in every condition content; for it gives him a settledness of heart. - *J.C. Ryle*

D. A promised inheritance (v.17)

1. What does it mean to be an heir?

¹⁷ *...and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,*

To share in the glory of Christ.

2. What is the distinguishing mark of an heir?

^{17b} *...provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

SPIRITUAL ORPHAN VS. SON EXERCISE

Read through each description from left to right, noting the difference. Under ORPHAN, check the box if you see that tendency in yourself. Underline the words or phrases that most apply. (Perhaps only part of it will be true for you.) Under SON/DAUGHTER, check the boxes that describe where you most want to grow this year. Also underline key words or phrases.

THE ORPHAN “I will not leave you as orphans.” (John 14:18)	THE SON “...but he has given us, the Spirit of sonship and by Him we cry, ‘Abba Father!’” (Rom. 8:15)
<input type="checkbox"/> You feel alone; lack a vital, daily intimacy with God; are plagued by a vacuum of self concern.	<input type="checkbox"/> You have a growing assurance that “God <i>really</i> is your loving Heavenly Father” (1 John 4:16).
<input type="checkbox"/> Anxious over “felt needs:” friends, money, etc; “I’m all alone and nobody cares.” “I’m not a happy camper.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Trust the Father and have a growing confidence in His loving care; are being freed from worry and fear (Matt. 6:25ff).
<input type="checkbox"/> Live on a success/fail basis; need to “look good”; performance oriented. Compulsive obedience. Obey God and moral codes out of fear of rejection. Often a lot of self-criticism.	<input type="checkbox"/> Learning to live in <i>daily partnership with God</i> ; not fearful. Obeys out of joy in your Father and out of gratitude for the <u>certainty</u> of his love. "How can I live so ungratefully to one who will <u>never</u> reject me?"
<input type="checkbox"/> Feel condemned, guilty and unworthy before God and others.	<input type="checkbox"/> Feel loved, forgiven, and totally accepted because Christ’s merit really clothes you.
<input type="checkbox"/> Have a “little faith,” lots of fear, little ability to <i>really</i> trust God. “I’ve got to fix it.”	<input type="checkbox"/> A daily <i>working trust</i> in God’s sovereign plan for your life as loving, wise and best. You believe God is good.
<input type="checkbox"/> Labor under a sense of unlimited obligation; try hard to please; burn out. Expectations and opinions of others become the real moral standard. You are controlled by what people think.	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer is the first resort; “I’m going to ask my Father first.” “ <i>Abba, Father!</i> ” Integrity and courage is easier. “The only person whose opinion counts is my Father! Who cares what the rest think?”
<input type="checkbox"/> Rebellious; resist authority; not easily teachable; heart is not soft.	<input type="checkbox"/> Have the strength to be submissive; has a soft (broken and contrite) heart. (Psalm 51:7) Teachable.
<input type="checkbox"/> Are defensive; can’t listen well; bristle at the charge of being self-righteous (virtually proving it).	<input type="checkbox"/> Are open to criticism since you <i>consciously</i> stands in Christ’s perfection, not your own; is able to examine your deeper motives.
<input type="checkbox"/> Need to be right, safe, secure; unwilling to fail; unable to tolerate criticism; can only handle praise.	<input type="checkbox"/> Are able to take risks - - even fail; since your righteousness is in Christ, you need no “record” to boast in, or to protect or defend yourself.
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-confident, or lacking confidence. Discouraged, defeated. Lacking spiritual power.	<input type="checkbox"/> Are Christ-confident and encouraged because of the Spirit’s working in you.
<input type="checkbox"/> Tend toward “ I can do it”; strong willed; driven.	<input type="checkbox"/> “I can do all things <i>through Christ</i> who gives me strength!” (Phil. 4:13).
<input type="checkbox"/> “Try harder”, self-effort; rely on your “gift package” to get by in ministry.	<input type="checkbox"/> Are trusting <i>less</i> in self and in the Holy Spirit more (with a conscious, daily reliance).

<p>❑ Tend to be ungrateful, complaining; bitter; critical spirit. Tears down others.</p>	<p>❑ Rely on the Holy Spirit to guide the tongue for use in praise, edification, thanksgiving and encouragement (Eph. 4:29).</p>
<p>❑ Tend to point out what is wrong; often dissatisfied about something. (Sadly, this makes chronic complainers more complaining.)</p>	<p>❑ Not blind to wrong, but you choose instead to focus on what is good and lovely (Phil. 4:8).</p>
<p>❑ Gossip (confessing <i>other people's</i> sins); need to criticize others to feel secure; a "competent analyst" of others' weaknesses; have the "gift of discernment."</p>	<p>❑ Are able to freely confess your faults to others, prefers to major on their strengths; doesn't always have to be right; is finding that you are often wrong; are eager to grow.</p>
<p>❑ Tend to compare yourself with others leading either to pride or depression (depending on how bad or good others look).</p>	<p>❑ Stand confidently in Christ; your self-worth comes from Jesus' blood and righteousness; not man-made "props" (Phil. 3:9).</p>
<p>❑ Feel powerless to defeat the flesh; have no real "heart victory" over besetting sins – yet you have lost your sense of being a "big sinner."</p>	<p>❑ As you rest in Christ, you are seeing more and more victory over sin, the flesh, and the devil (Romans 8:1-9).</p>
<p>❑ Are relatively prayerless; prayer is a "last resort"; "when all else fails . . ." Pray <i>often</i> in public, <i>seldom</i> in private.</p>	<p>❑ Prayer is a vital part of the day, not confined to a "Quiet Time"; loves to talk to the Father (1 Thes. 5:16-18).</p>
<p>❑ The Bible's promises of spiritual power and joy mock you. "What has happened to all your joy?" (Gal. 4:15).</p>	<p>❑ God's promises of power and joy are beginning to become a reality for you (Rom. 15:13).</p>
<p>❑ Boast; you point out your own accomplishments for fear that someone might overlook them (Gal. 6:14).</p>	<p>❑ Finds that Jesus is more and more the subject of your conversation; you boast in your weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:9,10).</p>
<p>❑ Concerned about building "a record" of deeds that needs noticing and defending.</p>	<p>❑ Christ's righteousness <i>is</i> your "record" so you stand complete in Him (1 Cor. 1:28ff).</p>
<p>❑ Wish people would see things your way. Need to be in control of situations and others.</p>	<p>❑ You are becoming Christ-controlled; minister in the power of the Holy Spirit, not in the strength of your "redeemed flesh."</p>
<p>❑ Look for satisfaction in positions, possessions or pacifiers (idols). Something other than Jesus makes you feel worthy, worthwhile, justified.</p>	<p>❑ Christ is your life, God truly satisfies your soul! "...and having Him, I desire nothing else on earth" (Psalm 73:25).</p>
<p>❑ Lacks passion to share the gospel (since your Christian life is not really good news); or tends to be motivated by a sense of obligation and duty, <i>not love</i>. "All these years I've been slaving for you...."</p>	<p>❑ Have a desire to see the lost come to know Jesus, shares the gospel with others, <i>even when not under the outward pressure of a program</i>. The love of Christ constrains us" (2 Corinthians 5:14).</p>