

The Spirit of Adoption!

I. Announce:

- A. **Slide#1** Anaheim Harvest Crusade(Aug25,26) **Be involved?** See Bulletin (next Wed 10am, Reliance Church mtg)
- B. **Slide#2** **John Uriarte: Marine**(tour Vietnam, awarded 2 purple hearts, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry medals); **Police Officer**(NY, Riv), **Chaplain** for RSA; Oversees our *Operation Military Assistance* Ministry.
1. John, first explain what the ministry of OMA is.
 2. Share your heart regarding the families you would like to connect w/or reach out to.
 3. Speak to those now that would like to be involved with you. **What would that look like? What could they do to come alongside OMA?**
- C. **Slide#3** Memorial Day:
1. I listening to an audiobook right now called "**Fearless**". It is about **Chief Special Warfare Operator Adam Brown**. He was a member of **SEAL Team 6**. He died at age 36, during combat operations on March 18th in Afghanistan.
 - a) It also tells the story from his mom & dad, his twin sister & older brother, his wife, & his 2 children standpoint.
 2. I think **David** set good precedent for a **Memorial Day**, with a *Memorial Song* in 2 Sam.1:17-27 (re: Saul & Jon) "**How the mighty have fallen**". "**Proclaim it in the streets.**" "**Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were **swifter** than eagles, They were **stronger** than lions."**
 - a) I'm going to pray for the those that still mourn the loss of those family members & close friends who have given their lives in active military service.

II. Slide#4 Intro:

- A. Here Paul closes this section proving *sanctification* (The life-long process of the H.S. making us holy) is an evidence of *justification*. And that, this **regenerate & renewed** life will be **ruled & guided** in all things by *the H.S. of God*.
- B. The *the H.S. of God* has been prominent in this section in relation to *the spiritual life of the Christian*. To wrap up this segment listen for **3 facets** of the Holy Spirits Relationship to His children.
1. **Slide#5** The Spirit of **Sonship**; or **Children**; or **Intimacy**.
 2. The Spirit of **Fellowship**; or **Sons**; or **Responsibility**.
 3. The Spirit of **Heirship**; or **Heirs**; or **Blessings**.
 - a) **By the Spirit** is how the believer is to be **regenerated, renewed daily, & end up victorious!**
- C. **Read Text:** Rom.8:12-17.
- D. **Slide#6 Adoption:** the giving to any one the **name & place & privileges** of a son who is not a son by birth. **3 Biblical ways it's used:**
1. **Natural** - **Pharaoh's daughter** adopted Moses, Ex.2:10; **Mordecai** adopted Esther Es.2:7

2. **National** - God adopted Israel. Thus says the Lord: Israel is My son, My firstborn Ex4:22
3. **Spiritual** - (our text) An act of **God's grace** by which he brings men into the # of his redeemed family & makes them partakers of all the blessings He has provided for them
 - a) Adoption represents the **new relations** into which the believer is introduced by *justification*, and the **privileges** connected therewith.

III. Slide#7 **THE SPIRIT OF SONSHIP!** [Children - Intimacy]

- A. This is where it begins. Spiritual babes, just born, & calling upon their Father in heaven.
- B. Under Roman law a Father **could** disown *his biological child*. However: A Father could **adopt** a child and under the authority of Roman law a child who had been adopted **could not be disowned**.
 1. And the father in order to adopt was responsible to **pay all debts** and this new member of the family would all **rights** and **privileges** of son ship.
- C. **Abba, Father** – “An intimate & endearing term used in both prayer & in the family circle.”¹
 1. **Slide#8,9** Opps wrong Abba!
 2. **Abba** is the Greek & English *transliteration* of the Aramaic word for father.
 3. Only used 2 other times in scripture:
 - a) The H.S. uses it in Gal.4:6 **And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”** [intimacy, not infancy]
 - b) Jesus used it in Gethsemane, **Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.** Mrk.14:36
- D. Notice he doesn't have us cry out, “*I am God's child!*” but instead cry out, “*Abba, Father!*” – What's the difference?
 1. He calls us to look away from ourselves & cry to Him who established the relationship!
 2. **Not**, “Do you know **who I am?**” **but**, “Do you know **who my Dad is?**”
- E. **Slide#10,11** (12) **Debtors!** - How are we in debt? (one who owes a *moral debt*)
 1. If someone saved your life you would feel **indebted** to them. **Yet, it would be a debt of gratitude.**
 2. **It would not be a have to, but a want to!** – It would come from the heart!
 - a) That is the kind of indebtedness that we have as Christians.
 3. We don't “**owe God!**” (we could never repay Him) **but** we want to **please Him!**
 - a) Not to make us right w/Him, **but** because He has made us right w/Himself!
 4. **So**, we are **not indebted to the flesh**, we are **under no obligation** to it!

¹ Linguistic Key to the Greek N.T., pg.365,366.

- F. (13) **You put to death** - Pres. Tense, “*you are putting to death*”.
1. **The flesh** cannot be destroyed in this life, **but the deeds** which proceed from it can be mortified.²
- G. (13) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die. *So it's Your choice...*
1. **Slide#13** It's either death unto sin, or sin unto death!
It's either you die *to* sin, or die for sin!
It's either slay your sin, or sin will slay **you!**
 - a) The key is to **cooperate** w/the H.S. **as** he is working in & thru us!
- H. Stifler said, “The man in Christ is not *in the flesh*, but **it is** in him, and the problem of salvation is not how to transmute the flesh into something good, but how to live with this thing every day without being overcome by it.”³
- I. Paul contrasts the ideas of **slavery & adoption** as children. (15)
- J. **Spirit of Slavery!**
1. **Christians listen up!** - You are no longer enslaved to “**fear**”!
 - a) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power & of love & of a sound mind 2Tim1:7
- K. **Spirit of Adoption!**
1. On the contrary, what we received was the realization that we are **adopted** kids!
 - a) **Adoption** = *indicates a new family relation w/all the rights, privileges & responsibilities*.⁴
 - b) And thus have the **privilege** of addressing God as Abba, Father.

IV. **Slide#14 THE SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP!** [Sons - Responsibility]

- A. Sons represents a **full-grown son**, adopted into God's family as an **adult** member of the household.
- B. Usually **1st century adoption** wasn't a cute little baby. In the 1st century Roman world they didn't adopt an infant because **infant mortality rate** was very high.
1. Nor was it the norm to adopt **toddlers**, **as** you were not sure what they were going to turn out like. **It was usually when they were older.**
- C. A chief mark of this **full-grown sonship** is being *led by the Spirit of God*.
- D. (14) **Led** – “*to lead by laying hold of, & this way to bring to the point of destination.*” James Strong
1. **Slide#15-18** It was used as an **animal** is led by a **harness**.
 2. So, the H.S. **takes hold of us & guides us** in our **Christian journey**.

² Griffith Thomas, pg.214.

³ The Epistle to the Romans, pg.148.

⁴ Linguistic Key to the Greek N.T., pg.365.

3. Ps.139:7-10 **Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.**
4. **We follow the one to whom we belong!**
5. Our day-to-day response to the H.S. will indicate *we belong to Him!*
 - a) “This is a more dependable measure than our emotional highs & lows.”⁵

E. **Who handles our sanctification process?**

1. Many have bought into the idea that *God saved me, now it's my job to become godly!* - **No!!!** it is a work of God!
2. **Slide#19** If, as some bumper stickers say, “**God is my Co-Pilot**”, then I like to say, “your in the wrong seat little buckaroo!”
 - a) **A Copilot is defined as:** a second pilot in an aircraft, who shares the flying but is **not in command**.
3. **Slide#20,21** Ever take a dog through Dog Obedience Class? Imagine your dog after class boasting to your neighbors dog, “**Look what I can do**” as he sits, or downs, or heals
 - a) **You as the Master** *kind of* had a lot to do in that process; **and thus, God** has had a lot to do w/our obedience!
 - b) **God, superintends** our sanctification!
 - c) 1 Thes.5:23,24 **Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**
 - (1) “Given **humanity’s track record**, do you think it would be wise of God to leave that task up to us?”⁶

F. **So**, this **full-grown sonship** implies a **conscious responsiveness** on our part to the **teaching & guidance** of the Spirit.

G. (16) **The Spirit Himself Bear witness** - “*to testify in support of someone*”.

1. Used in the papyri where the signature of each attesting witness is accompanied by the words “*I bear witness with & I seal with*”.

H. **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.**

1. **Not to our spirit but with our spirit.** [The Spirit of God is alongside us in crying out]
2. Gal.4:6 says **And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”**

⁵ Shepherds Notes, pg.50.

⁶ Chuck Swindoll, pg.35.

- a) This **double testimony** (*His Spirit & ours*) holds to the absolute fact, *independent of our emotions or sentiments*, one of the most precious realities & assurances of our special familial relation to God...*that we are children of God!*

V. Slide#22 THE SPIRIT OF HEIRSHIP! [Heirs - Blessing]

- A. **Not** every son is an heir in things *temporal*, **but** it is not so in things **spiritual**.
1. We actually possess **in & with** Christ *everything* that God has for us.
 2. It is for us to **accept, to enter upon, & to enjoy** this marvelous wealth of privilege.
 3. **No wonder Paul is so certain that we shall be save & kept to the very end.**
- B. **Inheritance**: In many families, children inherit their parents' estates; each child is an heir and the children together are co-heirs.
1. **Similarly**, since Christians are God's children, they are His **heirs** and they are **co-heirs** with Christ.
 2. Usually an **heir** is one who **has not** yet received his inheritance!
 - a) **But the Biblical idea is much more than this.** It implies actual possession **in part here & now**, with the promise of complete possession & enjoyment in the **future**.
 - (1) So the Spirit not only bears witness with us that we are **children**, but that we are **heirs**, & *marvel of marvels*, **joint heirs** with Christ.
 - b) Sharing with Jesus Christ as joint-heirs, involves more than *anticipating* the glories of heaven. For Jesus Christ it involved **suffering** and **abuse** and **crucifixion**; **therefore** being **co-heirs** with Christ requires that believers **share in His sufferings**.
 - (1) **Then after** the **suffering** we will share in His **glory**.
- C. Paul demonstrates if we are **heirs of God**, then our inheritance is **secure!**
- D. **Suffering** accompanies membership in the body of Christ.
1. These **sufferings** are ones that often come with **following Christ!**
 2. **This is expanded in the next section to be all sufferings we face in this present life!**
- E. **Slide#23** So, the **3 facets** of the Holy Spirits Relationship to His children, in relation to *the spiritual life of the Christian are...*
1. The Spirit of **Sonship**; we are His Children; **Intimacy**.
 2. The Spirit of **Fellowship**; we are His Sons; **Responsibility**.
 3. The Spirit of **Heirship**; we are Heirs; **Blessings**.
 - a) **Slide#24,25** **By the Spirit** is how we are to be not only **regenerated**, but **renewed daily & in the end victorious!**

Msg

12-14 So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

15-17 This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!