

Tues 28 June. Romans 8 verses 12-17. Our obligation

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation,” Paul says (verse 12). It is not to live according to the flesh, for if we do that, we will die (verse 13). Paul does not directly say what our obligation is, but his contrast implies that we are obligated to live according to the Spirit of God. There is no ultimate penalty for failures, Paul says in verse 1, but the obligation still remains: “if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live” (verse 13). We are called to serve the Spirit, not the flesh. We are commanded to serve God, not self. We are commanded to resist sin, to put misdeeds to death.

Things to think about

- How do we get the ability to put our misdeeds to death? (verse 13)

The old person is condemned; the new person is not. Therefore, we want to spend as much of life as we can in the new. Whatever we do according to the sinful flesh will die, but whatever we do in obedience to God will be of eternal value. The more we reject sin and the more we obey God, the more we are really alive. “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God” (verse 14). If we are in Christ, we are guided by the Spirit into a life that pleases God. Our obedience is led by the Spirit; we cannot take credit for it. Paul says that the life he has now is Christ in him (Galatians 2:20); Paul cannot take credit for the work that Christ does in him (Romans 15:18).

The Spirit does not enslave us or frighten us with threats of condemnation, but gives us a secure membership in God’s family: “So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, ‘Abba, Father.’ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children” (verses 15-16, New Living Translation).

Things to think about

- When we call God “Father,” do we feel fear, duty, or privilege? (verse 16).

Since God’s Spirit lives in us, we can confidently call God our Father — and this has important implications. “If we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...” (verse 17). This means an assurance of salvation and an assurance of glory — but it also means that we suffer, as Jesus did. “...if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

When our lives are placed in Christ, then we share in his life, both the good and the bad. We share in his sufferings, in his death, in his righteousness and in his resurrection. As God’s children, we are co-heirs with Christ, sharing in who he is and what he has done. We are united with him — forever in glory!

Things to think about

- What do you see as your personal benefit to being a co-heir with Christ?

Song: Abba Father

By Dave Bilborough © 1997 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

Abba Father, let me be
Yours and Yours alone
May my will forever be
Ever more Your own
Never let my heart grow cold
Never let me go
Abba Father, let me be
Yours and Yours alone

Remember a promise

- _(your name)_ is led by God and thus is a child of God (v. 14)
- _(your name)_ can call God "Abba" or Daddy! (v. 15)
- Through Christ _(your name)_ is an heir of God, inheriting divine blessings (v. 17)

Prayer:

Thank You, Father, that by grace through faith I have become Your child

(Ephesians 2:8).

Excerpt taken from: (Sharing in the Life of Christ: A Study of Romans 8:1-17)

by Michael Morrison, (<https://www.gci.org/bible/rom8a>)

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