

Abba Father - Part 3  
Some Privileges of Sonship  
**Romans 8:14-17**  
May 15, 2022

(New Century Version) The true children of God are those who let God's Spirit lead them. The Spirit we received does not make us slaves again to fear; it makes us children of God. With that Spirit we cry out, "Father." And the Spirit himself joins with our spirits to say we are God's children. If we are God's children, we will receive blessings from God together with Christ.

(English Standard Version) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 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!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

Intro: We are Sons and Daughters of GOD! (v. 16)

"God cherishes us as a father and a mother does their child. God, who is love, sets His infinite love in motion to cherish with love such persons who in themselves are hateful, despicable, and condemnable. This love is not generated by the desirability of the object, but it originates within Himself, being desirous to love and to love specific individuals." (Wilhelmus à Brakel)

WCF Chapter 12: All those who are justified God graciously guarantees to make partakers of the grace of adoption in and for His only Son, Jesus Christ. By this act they are taken into the number of God's children and enjoy the liberties and privileges of that relationship; they are given His name; they receive the spirit of adoption; they have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are they are enabled to cry, "Abba, Father." Like a father, God has compassion on, protects, provides for, and chastens them; yet they will never be cast off, but are sealed to the day of redemption; and will inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.

### 1. How God is Like Our Human Parents

Just like a father to his children, God:

☞ He has compassion on us (Psalm 103:13-14).

☞ He protects us.

God watches over His children, as a Father, to protect them from evil. (Psalm 121:3-8)

☞ He Provides for us all that we really need.

Matthew 6:25-33

Luke 11:11-13

☞ He Disciplines (WCF: chastens) us;

It pleases the Lord to lead His children to heaven through many adversities and tribulations, in order that they may thus learn to know and feel their sins, be kept humble, be weaned from the world, be stirred up to prayer, be motivated to trust in Him, attentively acknowledge His help and His preceding grace, give all things into His hands and be satisfied with His government. (Wilhelmus à Brakel)

Hebrews 12:4-11

### 2. How the Holy Spirit impacts God's children

Through His Spirit:

☞ He leads us (v. 14 - NCV The true children of God are those who let God's Spirit lead them.)

☞ His Spirit assures us that we are His (v. 16 - (NCV) the Spirit himself joins with our spirits to say we are God's children.)

Note: this comes over time, and He brings this assurance primarily through three things:

- His Word
- His People
- Changed lives

☞ He Gives us Peace of Conscience,  
1 John 3:19-20

☞ He Gives us Joy in the Holy Spirit  
The ability to be joyful in the midst of great pain...  
The ability to be joyful in the midst of great uncertainty

☞ He Causes us to grow and to persevere in grace to the end  
of our lives.  
The operative word: GRACE

### **Summary / Review:**

NOTE: the best of human parents is sinful. The best human parent has mixed motives in their love for their children. The best of human parents lacks wisdom in some areas.

However, God does not have those limitations.

Parents, do you desire the best for your children?

So also, you can be sure that God desires the best for His.

Do you attempt to do what is best for your children, even if they do not understand or like what you are doing?

So also, God, who does not make mistakes, does what is best for His children, which is often not what we might choose or understand.

Do you give to your children generously, well beyond what they have earned, or at times, deserve?

So also, God delights to give good things to His children.

Do you, at times, wish you had more resources so that you could give even more to your children?

God's resources are limitless. The only limit to what God gives His children is His love for them.

Do you protect your children from harm, both from their own foolishness as well as from others?

Do you think that God would do less for you?

Do you hurt when your children are hurting?

There are only two times that God, in the Person of the Lord Jesus, wept: for the hardness of people's hearts and for the sorrow of dealing with death...

And yet, don't you intentionally inflict pain on them at times in corrective discipline?

Do you think God would do any less?

Children, do you believe that your parents love you?

You need to understand that even though your parents struggle, at times with wrong motives or with lack of wisdom, God's motives are always pure and he always knows what is best.

And the neat thing about all this is that, not only are all of these things true for those of us who know Him as Father, He also fills us with Himself in the Person of the Holy Spirit! Think of it... He is ALWAYS with us. He NEVER leaves us!

A Truth to Remember: God is a PERFECT Father to all those who have been adopted into His family.

A Challenge to Consider: Is there an area of your life right now that you are struggling with? Are you willing to trust God to guide you and to provide for you?

One thing I heard this morning was...

One way I heard the gospel this morning was...