

THE SECURITY OF YOUR SALVATION (PT 2)

Romans 8:12-17

Introduction: Do I Really Belong?

I. The Spirit Enables You to Fight Sin (v.12-13)

- A. As Believers, We Are Not to “live according to the flesh” (v.12)
 - o Some may think we are “debtors” to the flesh; i.e., that we are still obligated to follow our sinful desires
 - o But Paul says if we live according to the flesh we “will die”
 - Does Paul’s warning contradict the fact that we are saved by grace alone?
- B. Instead, We Are Called to “put to death the deeds of the body” (v.13)
 - o Paul reminds us that we have the power to fight sin
 - We are no longer obligated (“debtors”) to follow the flesh, but now have the power of the Spirit to fight it!
 - Rock of Ages: “Be of sin the double cure, Save me from its *guilt and power*.”
 - o Paul reminds us that every Christian is obligated to fight sin
 - Notice the harshness of Paul’s language: “put to death”
 - John Owen: “Do you mortify [sin]? Do you make it your daily work? Be always at it whilst you live; cease not a day from this work; **be killing sin or it will be killing you**”
 - o What are some practical ways to root out sin in our lives?

****Important reminder:** Even as we labor in the fight against sin, we must depend on God’s grace and the power of the Spirit, lest we fall back into legalism!

II. The Spirit Assures You that You are a Child of God (v.14-17)

- A. The Declaration that You are “Sons of God” (v.14)
 - o This is above and beyond just forgiving us!
 - o Why the term “sons”?



B. What it Means to be a "Son" of God (v.15)

- o Two things it is NOT
 - Not "slavery"
 - Not based on "fear"
- o Two things it IS
 - You are legitimate "sons"
 - You have full access: "Abba! Father"

C. How You Know You are a "Son" of God (v.16)

- o "the Spirit bears witness with our spirit"

****Key point:** our experience of intimacy with God, which allows us to cry "Abba Father," is one of the ways we know we are Christians.

D. Privileges of Being a "Son" of God (v.17)

- o You are "fellow heirs with Christ"
- o You will "suffer with him"
- o You will "be glorified with him"



Discussion Groups

1. Share with one another about the steps you are taking to fight sin in your life? Encourage one another to stay faithful to those steps.

2. How does Paul's description of adoption and sonship challenge your own perception of how God looks at you? Do feel more like a slave sometimes rather than a Son?

3. Why do you think we typically leave out discussions about suffering as part of the Christian life? How does this passage help you gain a new perspective on the trials you are facing right now?

