

# A Slave or a Son?

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. **Rom. 8:15-17**

- I. The comparison here is between a slave and a son.
  - A. Sin enslaves, no matter how comfortable we may try to be with it.
    - 1. There is no better way to describe the state of a person who not saved than that he is enslaved – in bondage.
    - 2. We live in continual fear of rejection – no security or assurance, in relationships, or any other matter of life.
    - 3. We live in fear of the consequences of our wrongdoing – this is one of the effects of guilt and condemnation, we know we are going to pay for doing wrong, but we just don't know when.
  - B. When we are saved we become a son of God.
    - 1. We experience freedom and confidence.

**John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- 2. Not fear of rejection and no guilt.

**Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- II. We have not received the spirit of bondage.
  - A. Bondage means to bring into slavery or servitude – to enslave.
  - B. The spirit that overshadows our life and darkens everything in it.
  - C. The spirit that controls what we do because of fear – of rejection, or fear of consequences.
  - D. This is the way of a slave; he lives in fear of doing something that will bring him punishment or hardship.
  - E. He lives in fear of what others might do to him.
  - F. He lives in fear because his wellbeing, his life, and his future are all in the hands of someone else.
    - 1. He never knows when his provision may cease, or when he will be thrown out of his position and left with nothing and no way to provide for himself.
  - G. A slave lives under the shadow of knowing he isn't accepted and has no right to behave and partake as if he were family.
    - 1. He must always keep his distance and give place to others.
    - 2. He must always view himself as different and having no right to the things that are freely available to others.
- III. But ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
  - A. The place of a son is very different than that of a servant.
  - B. His life has no shadow of fear over it, as the trembling spirit of a servant does.

- C. The son has full confidence that he is welcome and that he is not in danger of being rejected and thrown out.
  - D. He has full confidence that he can partake of whatever is available for the rest of the family.
  - E. His life is directed by love instead of fear.
  - F. Therefore, he lives in freedom and is happy and satisfied.
  - G. He knows that even if he makes a mistake and costs his family dearly, there will be forgiveness and restoration, and he will not be rejected, or terminated.
  - H. This is our situation as children of God; we are happy and satisfied, living in peace and liberty, with confidence that we belong and are not going to be rejected.
  - I. The spirit of adoption even carries an extra blessing because it means we were chosen to be a part of God's family, and He did not just have to take what He got sight unseen.
  - J. "Abba, Father" is an expression of the intimate relationship between a father and a child.
  - K. So along with the great privilege of being a son comes the responsibility to conduct oneself as a son or daughter.
    - 1. A servant does not represent his master to others like a son or daughter does.
    - 2. A foolish or wicked servant does not bring the reproach upon his master that a foolish or wicked son does to his family.
- IV. Sadly, many people make the life of their loved ones more like the spirit of bondage than the spirit of love.
- A. Instead of being godly in their relationship with others, they manifest the old spirit of bondage.
  - B. Many make child training and family time together with the children a spirit of bondage.
  - C. Husbands and wives many times have a spirit of bondage in their relationship rather than the spirit of adoption and love.
  - D. Where the Spirit of God is there is liberty and confidence – not bondage and fear.
  - E. Where the Spirit of God is in a relationship there will be peace and not war.
- V. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
- A. The Holy Spirit of God gives us evidence that we are the children of God.
  - B. To give evidence does not mean to give a feeling or some kind of mystical revelation, or experience.
  - C. To give evidence means to give something real.
    - 1. The evidence given by the Spirit of God is real stuff, not pretended or imagined or dreamed.
  - D. The Spirit of God produces in us the effects of his presence, not only in our soul, but in our behavior and our attitude toward others – the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, etc. – that is evidence.
  - E. The Spirit of God is the Comforter, so he bears witness with our spirit with the comfort that He gives to our soul – that is evidence, also.
  - F. The Spirit of God guides us into all truth; so we will be learning truth.
    - 1. We will find that we are able to recognize lies and deceit, where before we could not – more evidence.
  - G. The Spirit of God helps us to pray by making intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. (Rom. 8:26)

H. All these things are convincing evidence that we indeed are the children of God.