

Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For 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!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Adopted as Sons

In both the Old and New Testaments we see that people are called friends of God based on their faith in him. Abraham was called a “friend of God” because of his belief and obedience (Jas 2:23). And, during Jesus’ earthly ministry, he called his disciples “friends” because of their willingness to follow him and the intimate relationship he had with them (Jn. 15:15). Wouldn’t it be awesome to be called God’s friend? Did you know that if you are united with Christ, you have something even better than this? Let’s take a look at what Paul wrote in Romans 8:14-17 to see how this is possible.

1. Read Romans 8:14-17 and underline references to SONS/CHILDREN.

Reflect: How have these people described in this passage become sons of God?

Reflect: What are they able to call God? And how do they know that they can call God this? (*see vv. 15-16*)

Reflect: If they are children of God, what else have they become along with Christ (*see v. 17*)

After Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, and salvation for his people was accomplished, Jesus appeared again to his disciples. This time, however, he did not call them friends, but his “brothers” (Matt 28:10). If you have been united with Christ, you too have been adopted as his brother, been made a fellow heir with him, and you can call God your “Abba Father.”

Take some time today to praise your “Abba” for what he has done to make this adoption possible for you.