

A D O P T I O N

Romans 8:12-17

November 12, 2023

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

- **How do you feel about your first or middle name you were given at birth?**
- **Would you rather have a fast forward, pause, or rewind button on your life?**

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

This week, we're taking a break from Acts to celebrate Orphan Sunday. Orphan Sunday happens each year and is a day many churches designate to acknowledge our biblical call to care for the orphan. In **James 1:27**, James tells us: *27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

Today, we're going to ask the question, **"What is adoption?"** In an earthly adoption, adoption is an action or fact of legally taking another's child and bringing it up as one's own. But, in our heavenly adoption, the Westminster Shorter Catechism [34] answers it this way, *"Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby, we are received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God."*

Just like an earthly adoption, it's the act of God bringing into His family those who separated from Him and making them heirs - just like Jesus. Paul describes this best in **Romans 8:12-17**. *Have someone in your group read Romans 8:12-17 aloud.*

In **Romans 8:12-17**, Paul talks about the issue of sonship. Genuine believers are not just children of God as a result of being created by God. Believers are adopted into God's family with the full rights of inheritance. The role of the Holy Spirit is crucial in this adoption process as He leads us, confirms our sonship, and puts the cry of a son into our hearts.

BUILD

Engage the Scripture

Question 1: What stood out to you about this text?

- What was most confusing?
- What was most helpful or meaningful?

Question 2: In **verses 12-13**, what two ways to live does Paul contrast? What is the fruit of these paths?

Question 3: In verses 14–16, what two relationships does Paul contrast?

- What is the difference between how a slave views the world and how a son views the world?

Question 4: What role does the Holy Spirit play in confirming our status as God’s children?

BECOME

Apply the Scripture

Question 5: Read Romans 8:12–13. Paul calls us to ‘put to death the deeds of the body’ by the Spirit, how are we to carry this command out?

- What does this quote mean to you, *“Be killing sin or it will be killing you”*? – John Owen
- Explain our role and the role of the Spirit in putting sin to death.
 - What happens if either is missing?

Question 7: Look back at verse 15. How would a Spirit of slavery lead someone to fall back into fear? How does knowing *you’re adopted* by God through Christ help you fight that fear?

Question 8: Read Romans 8:17. What is the relationship between sharing in Christ’s sufferings and being a co-heir with Christ?

- In what way do Christians today share as being a co-heir with Christ?
- In an earthly adoption, a name can change. In a heavenly adoption, what all changes when we’re adopted by God?

BEGIN

Response and Prayer

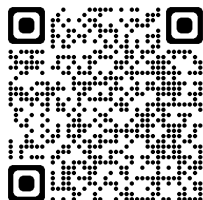
How should our Scripture *and the act of God adopting us into His family* change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blue Letter Bible: [Romans 8](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: [Romans 8](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

