

Heirs Of God

Intro: As a basis for our study let us turn to Rom. 8:14-17 ¹⁴“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And 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.” Let us ask five great questions.

I. WHO ARE THE HEIRS OF GOD?

A. Who are not necessarily heirs of God?

1. Not necessarily all of God's creatures.
 - a. While all people come from God in a physical sense this is not the idea here.
 - b. Luke 3:38 ³⁸“Which was *the son* of Enos, which was *the son* of Seth, which was *the son* of Adam, which was *the son* of God.”
 - c. Gen. 3:20 ²⁰“And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”
 - d. It is not written, “If creatures, then heirs.”
2. Not necessarily Abraham's descendants.
 - a. It is not written, “If Abraham's children according to the flesh, then heirs.”
 - b. Rom. 9:7 ⁷“Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.”
 - c. Physical ancestry is not what matters; Mat. 3:9 ⁹“And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”

B. The one's who are heirs are the children of God.

1. It is written, “If children, then heirs.”
2. The ones who are children.
 - a. They who are led by the Spirit.
 - b. Those who are led by the word of God; Eph. 6:17 ¹⁷“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

II. OF WHAT ARE THEY HEIRS?

A. The Fathers Estate.

1. He is Lord of heaven and earth.
2. All that He has He bestows upon His children.

B. This inheritance 1 Pet. 1:3-5 ³“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

1. Incorruptable
 - a. It will not decay, not brought to a worse state.
 - b. Mat. 6:19-20 ¹⁹“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”

2. Undeified
 - a. Free from contamination or pollution.
 - b. No sin or temptation can enter or be there.
 - c. 2 Pet. 2:20 ²⁰For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”
3. Fadeth Not Away
 - a. Described a flower which never lost its beauty or aroma.
 - b. It is perpetual in beauty.
4. Reserved in heaven for you.
 - a. It is kept, guarded, preserved.
 - b. No one can take it from you, but you.
 - c. A lovely place prepared and set apart for you.
5. Who are kept by the power of God.
 - a. Military term meaning to protect with a garrison or military guard.
 - b. Used here, a band of soldiers thrown about the faithful to protect and guarantee their safety so long as they remain in the stockade of faith; John 10:27-29 ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: ²⁸And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father’s hand.”
 - c. Jude 1 ¹Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:”

III. WITH WHOM ARE THEY HEIRS?

A. “Joint heirs with Christ.”

1. He shared with us our sorrow.
2. He will share with us His glory.

B. He shall share:

1. His resurrection
 - a. John 14:19 ¹⁹Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.”
 - b. 2 Tim. 1:10 ¹⁰But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:”
 - c. Rom. 6:5 ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:”
2. His nature
 - a. 1 Cor. 15:52-55 ⁵²In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?”
 - b. Phi. 3:21 ²¹Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

- c. 1 John 3:2 ⁴² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”
- 3. His joy
 - a. Mat. 25:21 ⁴¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”
 - b. 1 Pet. 1:8-9 ⁴⁸ Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹ Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.”
- 4. His eternal Home
 - a. John 14:1-3 ⁴¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.”
 - b. John 17:24 ⁴⁴ Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”
 - c. 1 The. 4:17 ⁴⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”

IV. HOW TO BECOME AN HEIR (A CHILD)?

A. We cannot inherit unless we are children, thus it is important to know the answer.

- 1. We become children by adoption.
- 2. Rom. 8:15 ⁴⁵ 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.”

B. We gain entrance into the divine family by faith.

- 1. A faith repentant.
 - a. Luke 24:46-47 ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
 - b. Acts 2:38 ⁴⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
- 2. A faith unashamed
 - a. Mat. 10:32-33 ³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”
 - b. Rom. 10:10 ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
- 3. A faith obedient; Gal. 3:26-27 ²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

C. This process is the new birth process:

- 1. John 3:3-5 ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

2. This birth has two elements.
 - a. Water
 - (1) Tit. 3:5 “⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
 - (2) Heb. 10:22 “²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”
 - (3) The only thing in the New Testament having to do with water is baptism.
 - (a) Acts 8:38-39 “³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”
 - (b) 1 Pet. 3:20-21 “²⁰Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. ²¹The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”
 - b. Spirit
 - (1) Tit. 3:5 “⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
 - (2) The Spirit effects in man a new spiritual life.
 - (a) He does this by the Word of God.
 - (b) Jam. 1:18 “¹⁸Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
 - (c) 1 Pet. 1:22-23 “²²Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: ²³Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
3. The new birth is baptism in water as directed by the Spirit which effects in us a new spiritual life.
 - a. Eph. 5:26 “²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”
 - b. We go into the water an old man and come out a new spiritual man; a child of God and thus an heir of God.

V. WHAT DOES ADOPTION INVOLVE?

A. A change of abode.

1. The adopted dwells in the Father's abode.
2. Psa. 23:6 “⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”
3. 1 Tim. 3:15 “¹⁵But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

B. A New Name.

1. He takes the family name.
2. 1 John 3:1 “¹Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

3. Acts 11:26 ^{“26} And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”
- C. Newness of Costume Gal. 3:27** ^{“27} For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
- D. A New Spirit.**
1. The spirit of adoption
 2. Rom. 8:15-16 ^{“15} 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. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”
 3. The spirit of gratitude, freedom, understanding, assurance, etc.
- E. Newness of Relationship.**
1. God is his Father; Christ is our elder brother.
 2. God’s children are His brethren.
 3. The Father’s house is His house.
 4. To the world.

Conclusion: Are you an Heir of God? If not, become His child today by obedience to His Word.