

**Adopted into God's family – Romans 8:12-17**  
**James Muldoon - Carey Baptist Church – 6 December 2009**

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Introduction

- What are the two ways to live which we have already encountered in Romans 8?
- What is Paul going to urge us to be in **v12-17**?

i The Spirit makes us faithful (v12-14)

*Here's a wooden translation of v12-14. "Therefore, brothers, we are debtors – not to the flesh to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if, by the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."*

- What does Paul say we owe the flesh in **v12**?
- What does Paul say is the fate of those who live according to the flesh in **v13**?
- The second half of **v13** is talking about "mortification". What does this scary word mean?
- What does Paul want us to be when it comes to our sin?
- Why are we told to take such strong action?
- Does this come naturally to us?
- Are you fighting against sin daily?
- Which three words in **v13** are crucial in our fight against sin?
- Complete the following sentences: "You can never divorce progress in holiness from the sweat and grunt of \_\_\_\_\_. And you can never divorce progress in holiness from \_\_\_\_\_."
- In **v14**, we are told that the Holy Spirit leads us. Is Paul talking about individual guidance there? If not, what is he talking about?
- Who must receive the credit for our good works?
- What weapons are you using in your fight against sin?
- How should Christians struggle with sins such as, say, pride?

ii The Spirit makes us family (v15-17)

*Here's another literal translation, this time just of v15. "For you did not receive a spirit of slavery again leading you to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, in whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"*

- What, according to **v15**, do we not become slaves to when we are converted?
- What does Paul call the Holy Spirit here?

- What does that mean?
- What is the first enormous blessing which the Spirit of adoption brings into our lives?
- What does “Abba” mean?
- Where does Jesus refer to God the Father as “Abba”?
- Why is this significant?
- How fully do we belong to God's family?
- What is the second enormous blessing which the Spirit of adoption brings into our lives in **v16**?
- What sort of assurance does the Spirit of adoption give to us?

*Some people struggle with assurance. Some struggle because they are not actually Christians. They need to confess their sin to God, to trust in Christ, and to start to live for him. Others struggle with assurance even though they are Christians.*

- What are some reasons why Christians sometimes struggle with assurance?

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- What four things should you do if you struggle with assurance?

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- What is the third enormous blessing which the Spirit of adoption brings into our lives in **v17**?
- When will we enter into our inheritance?
- How often do you think about the glory before you?
- Why do you need to think about it?