

HEIRS OF THE FATHER, JOINT HEIRS WITH THE SON

I. [1 John 4:7-16](#) [1 Corinthians 11:17-34](#) [Romans 8:14-17](#)

A. An encore from just last Sunday: You once were a spiritual orphan from the world's gutter, corrupt to the core. But then you were rescued from your life of squaller and abject spiritual poverty. You were adopted by Someone very rich and loving and kind. Passage on a ship to a glorious location was purchased for you. It was costly. You could've never afforded it! You surely didn't deserve any of this! But now you find yourself on board and under sail. So what kind of person will you be like on this voyage? What will your heart be like towards your Benefactor? How will you treat the Family of your Benefactor? Will you go out of your way to love and serve your fellow passengers? Will gratitude and love be your mood and drive your actions? Will you learn as much as you can about the place where you're going? Or will you be the same old, same old person you were when back in the gutter?

B. The only disciple of the original twelve that didn't die a martyr's death was John. And while he wasn't executed for his faith, we know from Scripture he was banished to the prison isle of Patmos. (There his Revelation vision took place.) Besides what the Bible tells us, tradition suggests he was tortured for his faith. One account suggests he was even placed in a cauldron of hot oil yet survived. Perhaps a more reliable tradition says that as elderly saint, John would be carried into church gatherings on a pallet. When asked to share but a few words to the faithful, inevitably he'd say over and over, "*Love one another!*" This former disciple and his brother James began their walks nicknamed by Jesus as "*Sons of Thunder.*" But John slipped into his Lord's presence as "*The Apostle of love.*"

C. [1 John 4:7:16](#) (NIV) from the Apostle of love...

1) **V7: 7** *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. (Like gravity, the spiritual cause & effect is similar: God's love comes down vertically, inundates us, and then goes out horizontally from us. If I stood on the bridge in downtown Millersport and dropped a large rock into the canal below, there'd be a ripples.)*

2) **V8-10: 8** *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (Ain't got no ripples!) 9* *This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. 10* *This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (The Bread & Cup remind us!)*

3) **V11: 11** *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ("Ought." Not, "We should then try our best to love others..." INSTEAD: "As a natural or supernatural result of being loved by God, we will be compelled, inspired, driven even, to love one another!")*

4) **V12: 12** *No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. (The ripples are indicators that the Rock has fallen in our waters!)*

5) **V13: 13** *This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit. (The Holy Spirit regenerates! He makes dead people come alive! He bears the multifaceted fruit called LOVE!)*

6) **V14-16: 14** *And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. 15* *If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16* *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. (Love comes down. Love goes forth. Love transforms.) (The Bread & Cup remind us!)*

D. **Onto 1 Corinthians 11...** The Church in Corinth was a hot mess. They were loaded with spiritual gifts but used them carelessly and selfishly. (They were like little children running around with chainsaws, causing more damage than good!) The wealthy Corinthians saw themselves as superior to their poor brothers & sisters. *"Look how God has blessed us but, ahem, not you! Therefore we go first at the love feasts!"* Paul likened their religious attitudes to noisy gongs and clanging cymbals. Some at First Corinth even got loaded during Communion! (No doubt they used real wine in their Communion cups!) There was also blatant immorality in this church. Paul wrote the Church in Ephesus that there *shouldn't even be a hint of immorality* among them. And yet in Corinth it was blatant! One guy there even bragged about his escapades. And besides all this, they were tuning-in to false teachers who deemed themselves as super apostles. A hot mess!

E. But Paul wrote them both sternly and yet passionately. While only two letters made the Canon, Paul wrote them at least four letters. We know Paul sent in other ministers to make corrections. We also know that some repented. Some chose maturity over carnality. Some chose to follow after the Spirit and not carry out the deeds of the flesh. Some turned from pride to humility. Some chose to be generous instead of stingy. Some chose to not be noisy gongs and clanging cymbals. So you know I'm not yanking your chains, let's read what Paul wrote them about Communion.

F. 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 (ESV) is for the Corinthians and likewise for us...

1) **V17-19: 17** *But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. 18* *For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, 19* *for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. (Some just weren't genuine believers! They were posers!)*

2) **V20-21: 20** *When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. 21* *For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. (Apparently they had a love feast meal that included the Lord's Supper.)*

3) **V22: 22** *What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not. (Always remember, the way you treat the "least of these" is how you are ultimately treating the Lord! Who are the "least of these" in your family? Who are the "least of these" where you work? Who are the "least of these" where*

you go to school? *Who are the "least of these" in your neighborhood? Who are the "least of these" here in our church family?)*

4) V23-26: (Here's our basis for taking the Bread & Cup together.) *23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (Church, Communion is a sacred act!)*

5) V27-29: *27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (God has built-in consequences for treating this sacred ordinance cheaply by mistreating your fellow brothers & sisters in Christ. Let us seriously examine ourselves before partaking...)*

6) V30-34: *30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. 33 So then, my brothers, (and sisters) when you come together to eat, wait for one another--34 if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home--so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come. (Not me and Jesus, it's we and Jesus!)*

G. There's a Chewy commercial where the will of a deceased Patriarch is being read aloud. Daughter, Audrey receives the company; son, Todd a train set, and another son apparently nothing. But Mr. Marbles the Cat inherits Chewy shipments of cat food in perpetuity. The cat replies, "I always loved that old man!" The grown children are infuriated. Then the kids ask the executor who gets the beach house? It too goes to Mr. Marbles! The absolute absurdity of it all drives the humor! But you know what? That God has adopted us and made us His children, His heirs, joint heirs with His Son--that's even more astoundingly absurd!

H. Romans 8:14-17 (NIV) spells it out like this: *14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.*

*** So you've been made a royal heir of the King of kings, an adopted child of God our Father. It took the shed blood of our Father's Son, Jesus our Lord, to make us His children, even heirs of His Kingdom. Love for us drove the sending, the coming, the dying, the rising! Love came down vertically. Love inundated us. May love go out from us horizontally! Let there be ripples and may some of them turn into tsunamis! And may the Bread & Cup remind us...**

*** Pray & Officiate Communion...**

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

1 John 4:7:16 (NIV)

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. **13** This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34 (ESV)

17 But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. **18** For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, **19** for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. **20** When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. **21** For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. **22** What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not. **23** For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, **24** and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." **25** In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. **27** Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. **30** That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. **31** But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. **32** But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. **33** So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another-- **34** if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home--so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

Romans 8:14-17 (NIV)

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. **15** The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you

received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father."
16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

"Good Good Father" - Housefires

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djrY_eFDOwE

"Good Good Father" - The ZOE Group

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibbsFuX_eHg

Adopted Into the Family of God - Greg Laurie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGLxN0cxk6Y>

Adoption - C.J. Mahaney (Sermon Jam)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4kPh_g-Vt4

Chewy Commercial - Mr Marbles the Cat Receives the Inheritance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JntISuUf0bQ>

When Your Spouse Won't Join a Solid Church - Nick Batzig (Beautiful Christian Life)

<https://www.beautifulchristianlife.com/blog/when-your-spouse-wont-join-a-solid-church>

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8** Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9** for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Galatians 4:1-7 (NLT)

1 Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. **2** They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. **3** And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this

world. **4** But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. **5** God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children. **6** And because we are His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” **7** Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are His child, God has made you His heir.

James 2:5-9 (AMP)

5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters: has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and [as believers to be] heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? **6** But you [in contrast] have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress and exploit you, and personally drag you into the courts of law? **7** Do they not blaspheme the precious name [of Christ] by which you are called? **8** If, however, you are [really] fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself [that is, if you have an unselfish concern for others and do things for their benefit]” you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality [prejudice, favoritism], you are committing sin and are convicted by the Law as offenders.

Revelation 3:20-22 (ESV)

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me. **21** The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also conquered and sat down with My Father on His throne. **22** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 21:1-8 (NIV)

1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. **4** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **5** He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” **6** He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7** Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be My children. **8** But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Quote by J.I. Packer

"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not

the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all."

- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 201.

Quote by Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

"Adoption is a greater mercy than Adam had in paradise."

Quote by R.C. Sproul

"Nobody is born into this world a child of the family of God. We are born as children of wrath. The only way we enter into the family of God is by adoption, and that adoption occurs when we are united to God's only begotten Son by faith. When by faith we are united with Christ, we are then adopted into that family of whom Christ is the firstborn."

Quote by Max Lucado

"If anybody understands God's ardor for His children, it's someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us. God has adopted you. God sought you, found you, signed the papers and took you home."

A Child of the King

By Harriet E. Buell

My Father is rich in houses and lands
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
His coffers are full, He has riches untold.

My Father's own Son, the Saviour of men,
Once wandered on earth as the poorest of them;
But now He is reigning forever on high,
And will give me a home in heaven by and by.

I once was an outcast, stranger on earth,
A sinner by choice, and an alien by birth;
But I've been adopted, my name's written down,
An heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown.

I'm a child of the King, a child of the King;
With Jesus my Saviour, I'm a child of the King.

4 Benefits of Our Adoption

By Sinclair Ferguson - From *The Trinitarian Devotion of John Owen*

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/4-benefits-our-adoption/>

To contemplate all the privileges of communion with Christ would be, Owen says, "*work for a man's whole life.*" Yet these are all summed up in what he regards as "*the head,*

the spring, and fountain whence they all arise and flow.” This—the highest privilege of all—is adoption into the family of God with all the rights and privileges of knowing Him as our heavenly Father.

Outside of Christ, we were strangers to the family of God both on earth and in heaven. But now we are brought near and made heirs. In Christ the Son, we have become the adopted sons of God: *“Adoption is the authoritative translation of a believer, by Jesus Christ, from the family of the world and Satan, into the family of God, with his investiture in all the privileges and advantages of that family.”* Thus, we enter into the manifold privileges that belong to the royal children of the heavenly King.

At first glance, it may seem strange that Owen discusses the theme of adoption within the context of communion with the Son. Adoption, after all, is by definition an act of the Father, and its confirmation is effected by the Spirit in His capacity as the *“Spirit of sonship.”* But Owen’s reasoning is fairly obvious: in union and communion with Christ, we become joint heirs with Him. So while each of the divine persons plays His particular role in adoption, it is appropriate to discuss adoption as the highest privilege of our union with Christ.

But in what do we enjoy communion as adopted children? Owen gives a fourfold answer:

1) We enjoy the liberty of the children of God. We are set free from the hold of the old family. No longer is its influence dominant—even if we are not entirely free from its atmosphere and even its menacing influence. There is all the difference in the world between obeying the Father who has given His Son for us, so that we can be sure He will also give us everything we need, and being in bondage to the law while making our best efforts to keep it.

2) We have a new title, and as royal sons enjoy *“a feast of fat things,”* not least in the church, where we have the privilege of belonging to the family of God and being served by, and in turn loving and serving, its members. More than that, there is a sense in which the whole world is ours to enjoy, because it belongs to and is preserved by our Father. No child in this family can ever justly complain that his Father has set up a restrictive regime without pleasures and joy. Isaac Watts was surely reflecting on this when he wrote:

*The men of grace have found,
Glory begun below.
Celestial fruits on earthly ground
From faith and hope may grow.
The Hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav’nly ground,
Or walk the golden streets.*

3) We experience boldness before the face of God. In Christ, we are as righteous as He is before God. We have the privilege of calling Him “Abba, Father.” We can ask anything in Jesus’ name. What more could we ask for?

4) We experience affliction. But for the child of God, affliction is always chastisement—the action of the Father. This, as Owen rightly points out, is precisely the burden of ([Hebrews 12:5–11](#)). It is one of the chief distinctions between Christians and unbelievers. The latter seek but do not find any ultimate meaning in their suffering; as a result, unbelievers must attempt to create meaning. But not so Christians. For Scripture teaches them that, in Christ, trials have a goal. God is treating His people as sons by training them. Were He indifferent to us in our sin and waywardness, questions could rightly be raised about our legitimacy. In this sense, all discipline is evidence of His love. More than that, suffering in the Christian life is the training ground of the soul. The Father is equipping His children through adversity. If our earthly fathers discipline us for our good, how much more will the heavenly Father, who knows His children through and through?

Thus, when we were united to Christ, a transaction and transition of monumental proportions took place. It would be a tragedy if we did not catch a glimpse of the grandeur of what this means—it is nothing less than union and communion with the Son of God in our flesh.

- This excerpt is taken from *The Trinitarian Devotion of John Owen* by Sinclair Ferguson. This book may be ordered by going to: <https://www.ligonier.org/store/the-trinitarian-devotion-of-john-owen-hardcover/>