

Read Romans 8:1-17 in order to understand the context of verses 15-17.

### **Romans 8:1-17**

**1**Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**2**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

**3**For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

**4**so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**5**For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

**6**For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

**7**because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*,

**8**and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**9**However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

**10**If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

**11**But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**12**So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—

**13**for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

**14**For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

**15**For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

**16**The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

**17**and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

### **What is the context of verses 15-17?**

In the previous chapters, Paul teaches about the battle between the flesh and the Spirit and how we struggle with sin in our lives. He shares how sin is located in the flesh and how we are no longer bound to the flesh, but are to live in and by the Spirit.

Question: Share what living by the Spirit looks like.

Paul then assures us that we are filled and led by the Spirit because we have been adopted as fellow heirs with Jesus.

**15For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”**

**Question:** Share what you think is the “spirit of slavery”.

**Question:** According to Paul, what is the antidote for the spirit of slavery and the fear that results?

**Sermon:** There were three fears mentioned in the sermon from which we can be delivered by the spirit of adoption.

1. Spiritual adoption liberates us from the source of fear.
2. Spiritual adoption liberates us from the fear of judgment.  
1 John 4: 18 *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.”*
3. Spiritual adoption liberates us from the fear of the future.

**Question:** Describe the first recorded adoption in the Bible.

**Question:** How would you define “adoption”?

**Question:** Share why Paul uses the phrase, “Abba! Father!” in association with the spirit of adoption.

**Share Thought:** Have each person within a small group share the term they used in addressing their father and what their relationship with their father was like.

**16The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,**

**Question:** Share how we know that we are children of God.

**17and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.**

We are also called “fellow heir with Christ”.

**Question:** Share what is an “heir”.

**Co-Heirs:** Note that we are not just heirs by “co-heirs” or “fellow heirs” with Christ, which means we have the same inheritance as Jesus.

**Question:** What is an inheritance?

**Final Share Thought:** Share your feeling and thoughts about earthly adoptions along with any stories or examples of those whom you know who have adopted or been adopted.