

LIVING UP TO THE FAMILY TRADITION

Romans 8:12-17

Our family has many **“FAMILY TRADITIONS.”**

“Living up to family tradition” => “Always do your best!”

Mike’s assignment—excellent work—brought home proudly

After we looked a while, Mike commented:

“I guess I lived up to Porter family tradition, didn’t I?”

Living up to our family traditions is important.

Royal families have traditions as well.

Children of king must live up to royal traditions.

Royal son trained how royal family ought to act.

He’s member of *royal* family => he must act like it!

God’s family has a family tradition also!

Rom 8:12-17: As God’s children, we ought to live up to family tradition—act like our Father!

8:1-11: Shows where power to live God-like comes from

—NOT from OUR efforts, but from H.S.

We’re free from life in flesh, so we can live by Spirit

God gives power to live as His children by H.S.

We should imitate what we’ve observed our Father do.

As child we heard expression: **“chip off the old block”**.

“You can tell whose son he is. He’s chip off old block!”

Children of God ought to act like our Father!

We should be holy, as He is holy (Lev 19:2; 1 Pet 1:15-16)

OUR DEBT 8:12-13 *“We have an obligation—but it isn’t to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.”*

God provides power to live godly life by H.S.

**Because of his provision to us,
we ought to use resources he provides!**

We should NOT live by our own efforts.

Our efforts lead to death 8:13a

Living by the flesh is lifestyle of those who are dying:

“If you live by the flesh, you die by the flesh.”

God’s Spirit works in us to eliminate works of the flesh & produce His fruit in us **8:13b** *“...if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.”*

If we live by God’s Spirit . . .

He eliminates works flesh produces

He produces His fruit which leads to life.

If we do it ourselves, we try to kill deeds of flesh by power of flesh.

The flesh will never eliminate it’s own deeds!

Like trying to put something out of mind—e.g. song.

We can’t stop doing what we do,
when we do what we want to do,

That just produces more of the same!

Like airplane: When we walk around on earth, we’re enslaved by law of gravity. It holds us down. When we get in plane, it frees us from law which binds us to earth. Once free from law of gravity, suppose we decide to go for a walk—enjoy our freedom. If we try to get out & go it on our own, guess what happens?

So how does God produce His life in us?

[What results should we expect as God’s children?]

CAUSE of God-like living 8:14-17 *“Those who’re led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you didn’t receive a spirit that makes you slave again to fear but you received the spirit of sonship. By him we cry, “Abba, Fa-ther.” ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we’re God’s children. ¹⁷Now if we’re children, then we’re heirs— heirs of God & co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings that we may also share in his glory.”*

Paul’s logic: like logic behind a **“paternity suit:”**

When court wants to determine if man is father,
they examine genetic evidence.

DNA establishes with near certainty if he’s the father.

Test of *spiritual* paternity.

How can we know God’s our Father?

Test that’s 100% accurate: => 8:14 *“Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

God’s children are led by God’s Spirit!

Holy Spirit who resides in us confirms our relationship with God as adopted children.

We weren’t born God’s children—didn’t start out that way!

We were born slaves—slaves of sin.

When we trust Christ we’re adopted into God’s family.

Adopted child troubled by teasing, learned: “when you were born, your parents were *stuck* with you, but my parents *chose* me; they *loved me!*”

We’ve been chosen by God, because He loves us.

Now we come to Him as His beloved children.
 Don't confuse result of blessing with cause.
 We don't follow Spirit so God will consider us children.
 We follow Spirit because we ARE God's children
 When we follow His direction, that lifestyle
 confirms that we've trusted Christ 8:14

Wonder expressed by appreciation which flows from our hearts,
 as God's children. 8:15 "You didn't receive a spirit that makes you
 a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. By
 Him we cry, "Abba! Father!"

God's children approach Him . . .

NOT as slaves, afraid we'll anger Him!

But, as children, assured He loves us.

Father relationship corrupts concept...

People hurt by abusive, neglectful parents have negative image
 of "father." We miss point.

**Biblical concept of fatherhood is caring Father who
 loves us & seeks what's best for us.**

Tendency to say we come to God as "Daddy"

Term not intended to distract us from God of universe

Intended to be term of affection & endearment.

"Father" captures idea, understood as warm affection.

"Dad" might be better to capture idea.

Term Lord uses to address His Father

Relationship doesn't get in way of Father's authority

Hard to believe: **God of universe wants fatherly relationship with me!**

Never degenerates into such a “buddy-buddy” relation-ship that we forget that *HE IS GOD!*

We don't come to God as angry master, whip in hand,

We come to Him as loving Father, & call Him “DAD”

Peace & confidence Spirit gives confirm we're God's children **16** “*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we're God's children.*”

2nd truth accompanies 1st:

As God's children, we're His heirs.

8:17 “*...if we're children, then we're heirs—heirs of God & co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*”

We're His heirs & we're co-heirs with Christ!

We participate together with Christ Himself, as fellow-heirs of what God has promised

When we adopted **Jonathan**, I talked to him about implications. He'd been prepared to *earn* his way. Ready to do laundry, iron—whatever it takes to earn his keep. It took a while for him to understand that, by adoption, he became 1 of our children, calls me “dad;” he's fellow-heir with rest of our children. 1/5th of all we own will someday be his.

That's what God's done for us! He made us His children!

We're heirs of everything He owns!

H.S. in us is evidence we're adopted into *His* family.

Wealthy man called in faithful assistant. "I've put you in my will. You'll receive \$100,000 when I die. That may be a long time. I want you to enjoy the interest now. Here's a check for \$6000." Prospect of inheritance was good news; money in advance *assured* him of hope for the future.

That's what God does for us. H.S.' presence is the interest
=> guarantee of the inheritance!

Since God adopted us into His family, we should act like children, heirs of King- members of God's family.

Inheritance includes many things, but they're all secondary to greatest value"=>the glory of God

Christ will be glorified with the glory of the Father.

We'll be glorified together with Him.

Suffering prepares us to receive inheritance.

God prepares us to be glorified with Christ.

God's children-heirs-live worthy of our position.

In light of God's provision how should we live?

Can people see we're his children watching us?

Abba, Father, Abba, Father, Deep within my soul I Cry

Abba, Father, Abba, Father, I will never cease to love you!

Abba, Father-DAD-May we live as your children,

May we live up to *Your* family tradition, & glorify You.