

ADOPTED

Eight Weeks in Romans Eight



The Greatest Chapter on Earth

THIS AIN'T HUGH JACKMAN'S VERSION OF THE GREATEST THINGS

In December 2017, a box office musical featuring Hugh Jackman, Zendaya, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, and many others took the country by storm. It was the telling of P.T. Barnum's rise to fame and the circus, and people, that got him there. The movie and songs claimed this was the greatest show on earth.

The book of Romans is by no means a show, but chapter 8 of Romans certainly is known as the greatest chapter in the Bible... probably the greatest chapter in all of literature. Many pastors, teachers, and theologians have made this claim, even at the risk of being contradicted.

Whether or not it is the "greatest" chapter, it certainly is a theologically and formatively rich chapter for the Christian. Over the next eight weeks, our church and Life Groups will journey through this chapter to see just how good our God is and our place in His story.

Schedule & Announcements

JAN 9 - FEB 27 | SERIES
JAN 13 - FEB 24 | CURRICULUM

ADULT MINISTRIES |

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
SUN, TUES, WED - JAN-MAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
THURS - FEB

PLAYDATES FOR MOMS
FRI - JAN-MAY

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE
AT LEGACYCHURCH.ORG

We are family

ROMANS 8:14-17

Recap last week's discussion and premise.

Read Romans 8:14-17

What statement does verse 14 make about Christians?

Is there a qualifying factor to this statement? (i.e. Does one live on their own or with the help of Someone or something?)

Does the fact stated in verse 14, that all who are led by the Spirit of God are considered children of God, mean that not everyone is a child of God? Why or why not? How would you explain your answer biblically?

*"When Paul writes of 'those who are led by the Spirit of God,' he is distinguishing between those who are led by the Spirit and those who are not led by the Spirit, which means that only a portion of humanity are God's **spiritual** children."*
 - James Montgomery Boice (emphasis in the original.)

Reflect on being a child of God for a moment. The fact that a person goes from death and sin to life and abundance in Christ should be seen as a radical and supernatural change. How does your position as a child of God impact you on a daily basis? Or, if you don't often consider that, how might you begin to cultivate a more conscious and joyful realization of being a child of God?

How does the Spirit lead Christians? (*Consider not subjective experiences but Biblical examples such as the Spirit renews our minds [Rom. 12:1-2], He stirs our hearts [Gal. 4:6], and He directs our wills [Phil 2:12-13].*)

Over the last week, how have you experienced the Spirit leading you in your daily life?

Theologian John Murray wrote in his commentary of Romans that *"The activity of the believer is the evidence of the Spirit's activity, and the activity of the Spirit is the cause of the believer's activity."* How does that statement sit with you? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? Does this truth make an impact on your life?

Consider for a moment the concept of adoption. Maybe you were adopted or you have adopted children. Or maybe you know a family member or friend who has. What is beautiful about adoption? How is love displayed through this process?

Why is it important for Paul to say in verse 15 that Christians have received the Spirit of adoption? Furthermore, what is the importance of Christians calling God "Abba" and "Father"?

Leon Morris states in his commentary on Romans, that adoption *"signified being granted the full rights and privileges of sonship in a family to which one does not belong by nature."* Maybe a helpful way of saying this is that women and men receive the full entitlement, freedom, and inheritance of being a child of a parent or parents based on love, care, and acceptance, not based on DNA. If this is the case, in what ways have you thanked God lately for adopting you into His family and giving you the right to be His heir? Consider praying, writing a poem, or journaling your gratitude at some point this week.

How does the Holy Spirit testify within our soul that we are children of God (verse 16)?

Not only are Christians adopted into the family of God but they also receive an inheritance as an heir of God. Verse 17 tells us that we are heirs of God and coheirs (or fellow heirs) with Christ. What does it mean to be an heir of God? What things will Christians inherit as a result of their position with God (use both this section and other New Testament passages to answer this question)?

Is there anything else in this section that stood out to you and that you would like to discuss?

"The substance... amounts to this, that all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God; all the sons of God are heirs to eternal life; and therefore all who are led by the Spirit of God ought to feel assured of eternal life."

- John Calvin