

THERE IS MORE



Series: Romans 8

Message Title: Why You Feel Alone

Key Text: Romans 8:14-17

Discussion Guide

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Mark Pettus preached from Romans 8:14–17, where Paul teaches that those who believe in Christ receive a new identity: children of God. Contrary to common assumption, Paul does not apply this title to all humanity but specifically to those who belong to Christ. It is a covenant identity given to God’s people. This raises important questions for us: How do we become children of God? What does it mean to be a child of God? And what does living as God’s children look like?

Paul gives the answer in Romans 8:15: “The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’” Becoming a child of God is not based on our achievements but on receiving the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, we are adopted into God’s family and made co-heirs with Christ. Pastor Mark helped us understand this by explaining Roman adoption. Roman adoption meant a new name, a secure inheritance, and a completely new future. In the same way, God’s adoption changes everything.

As adopted children, our lives are marked by intimacy with our Father. We cry, “Abba, Father,” expressing trust and closeness with God. Because this relationship is grounded in what God has done, our assurance does not rest in our performance but in His love. Pastor Mark illustrated this through the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Though the son rejected his father and wasted his inheritance, the father welcomed him home with forgiveness, acceptance, and celebration.

Make It Practical

1. Prayerfully read Romans 8:14-17 several times. Take a few quiet moments to listen for what God the Father may be speaking to you through His Word. Write down any thoughts, encouragements, or truths He is revealing to you.
2. What areas are you fighting for assurance instead of resting in it? Tell a friend or your Small Group leader about it and ask them to pray with you.
3. Is there an area of your life where you’ve wandered away from the Father? How can you respond to His grace this week?

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“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.’”

ROMANS 8:15 (NIV)

Talk About It

1. What do you think God may have been saying to you through this message?
2. Think about Pastor Mark’s teaching on Roman adoption. How does this context help enrich your understanding of what it means to be a child of God?
3. What does the father’s response (robe, ring, sandals) teach us about how God restores people?
4. What does the father running toward the son reveal about God’s heart toward you?

Prayer

Father, thank You for adopting me into the family of God. Thank You Jesus for shedding your blood for me, enabling me to become a co-heir with You. Lord, You know how quickly I try to achieve Your love and affection. Help me to rest in the assurance of Your unfailing love for me. Holy Spirit, point out any place in my life that I have wandered away from the Father, and guide me back home. In Jesus Name. Amen.