

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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## THE FAMILY OF GOD

Romans 8 Series: “The Mountain Peak of Scripture –  
Our Hymn Of Hope.”

### ROMANS 8:12-17

Two weeks ago, we learned that there is **no condemnation for the Christ-follower**. Last week we rejoiced in the fact that we have been given the **companionship of the Holy Spirit**. As we continue in our sweet study of Romans 8, we come again to the little word “**therefore**,” this time in **verse 12**. This is a clue that Paul is now moving from **instruction to exhortation**; from what God has done for us to what is expected from us. As a result of having no condemnation and having the companionship of the Holy Spirit, Paul is going to describe the Family of God. But before we come to the family of God Paul in **Vs.12-13** talks about some responsibilities that we have. So, he tells us if we are really part of the Family of God then (1) **Don’t live like you used to V-12**, (2) **Put disobedience to death V-13**.

Now going back to **verse 12** you will see the phrase “**Brethren**”. Some Universalists and secular humanists say, “*Everybody’s in the family of God; God is the father of everyone; we are all brothers and sisters on planet earth.*” The Bible never teaches God is the father of every person on planet earth, that we are all brothers. **Turn with me to John 8:42-47** and look at what Jesus said. Now, according to Jesus Christ, there is not one human family, there are two, one that belongs to God and one that belongs to the devil.

**I want to show you four things from this passage we enjoy as children of God.**

### I. AS CHILDREN OF GOD, WE ENJOY GUIDANCE

Now not only are these benefits, but these are also proof we are in the family of God. Look at **verse 14 again**. That means if you are being led by the Spirit of God you are a child of God, but if you are not experiencing the leadership of the Lord in your life you have to question, “Am I in the family of God or not?” If you’re not led by the Lord, you’re not in his family.

1. **God’s sheep recognize His voice – John 10:26-27**
2. **God’s children follow His Spirit**

### II. AS CHILDREN OF GOD, WE ENJOY ADOPTION

That’s right...adoption...we are adopted into the family of God. Please look **at verse 15**, the last part, where it says, “...you received the Spirit of **adoption** by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”” Now the word ‘**adoption**’ in Greek is our word for son. It meant a legal transaction to make someone your son. Look at **Ephesians 1:4-5** and see what really happened to us. It’s talking about at least two things.

1. **The Father lovingly chose us**
2. **The Father legally claims us**

### III. AS CHILDREN OF GOD, WE ENJOY INTIMACY

Think about the word “intimacy” for a moment. When you think of intimacy what do you think about? You probably think about loving someone. Most of the time, we use that word in a “love-romantic” kind of relationship. The Bible says you and I, as children of God, can have an amazing level of intimacy with the Creator of the universe. Please look again at the last part of **verse 15**, where it says, “**You receive the spirit of adoption and by him we cry Abba...Father.**” If you’re wondering what “**Abba**” is, let me tell you. It was the personal intimate address that a little baby would utter to their parent. Let’s learn something about this word “Abba.”

1. **Jesus was the first to call God “Abba” – Mark 14:36**
2. **In Christ we can cry “Abba!” – Gal. 4:6**

This word “**cry**” was almost like a cry of distress, a cry of pain. It means there are times in our lives when we are so burdened, we are so hurting, we are so distressed; we literally just have to cry out “Abba, Abba!”

### IV. AS CHILDREN OF GOD, WE ENJOY ASSURANCE

You can know that you are saved! Think about all these benefits: you are **guided** by God, you are **adopted** by God, you have **intimacy** with God, and you have **the benefit of assurance!** The assurance of your salvation. Can you say with confidence, “I know in whom I have believed and I know that he is able to keep that which I’ve committed unto him.” Because of...

1. **The external witness–God’s Word** - First of all, you can know you are saved by what I call the “**external witness.**”  
The external witness, which is the word of God -  
**1 John 5:11-13.**
2. **The internal witness–God’s Spirit! V-16**

Let me ask you a question. Who are your biological parents? Most of you know, don’t you? Are you sure? Of course you are. You’ve lived with them, and they’ve raised you and you love them and they love you; there’s no doubt there. You know you are a part of that family. Well then, when someone asks if you’re a part of the family of God, don’t say, “I hope so,” don’t say, “I think so,” you need to say, “I know so.” The problem I see is that you and I are a part of the family of God but we’re just not enjoying the benefits of it!