



ROMANS 8:12-17

This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.

HEART CHECK: BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Our CG sessions are where we actively apply God's Word to our lives and urge each other to live out the Gospel in all areas of our lives. In preparing to facilitate a session, it can be tempting to view the CG session as an intellectual exercise where we transmit content and information to our members, instead of a session where we can love and serve those in our CG by edifying and strengthening their faith.

Here is our loving challenge to you: the spirit in which we prepare to lead the study is as important as the outcome of our preparation -- God is concerned with our hearts far more than the product we deliver. Before we seek for others to be encouraged and convicted by the text, let's first desire for ourselves to hear how God might be speaking and convicting us through His word.

For recommendations on how we can use these resources and facilitate the session prayerfully and thoughtfully, check out our ["How to Use the CG Resources"](#) note.

1. SERIES OVERVIEW

A. Goal of Series

Since the pandemic began, our church has added many new members and grown tremendously. However, due to the restrictions and various health reasons, many have never been to physical service or had much interaction or fellowship with the people of our church family, aside from digital means. Whilst it's been exciting to grow during this period, we do not want to assume that the most important value of our church – Gospel Centrality, has been grasped by all who are at Redemption Hill Church. Therefore, we want to use this series to lay these foundations very clearly in the church. Some goals include:

- Teaching about the gospel itself, and what it means to be part of a community where the gospel is at the heart of all that we do.
- Laying out the basics and foundations of our faith very clearly and explicitly.
- Romans 8: This chapter elaborates on God's victory over our sin. God's grace is given to us in the here and now (the power of the Spirit, the certainty of the hope we have, the knowledge that all things are working for our good), and that we can live as conquerors here despite our sufferings.
- Romans 12: The letter shifts from the indicatives (what God has done for us) to the imperatives (how we are to respond to God). This chapter elaborates on how we must respond to God's mercies and how we are to live is to offer up our bodies as living sacrifices. It also demonstrates the reality of living out God's grace and love is how a church culture shaped by the gospel looks like.

B. Summary

The fact that the Holy Spirit indwells in us is expressed through living by the Spirit. Progressive sanctification and the killing of sin is the process in which Christians live by the Spirit and how eschatological life is unravelled. The Spirit is also the instrumental agent in which Christians are adopted as the children of God, as well as the agent that helps us recognize and experience the vivid reality that we are God's children. Finally, we are God's children because we are joined to Jesus. As Jesus is the messianic fulfilment of the OT, He is the true Israel that inherits the promise of life and relationship with God as God's Son, and therefore those that are joined to Him are adopted to become God's sons and daughters, just as He is God's perfect Son, as well as inheriting all that He does, which includes the experience of Christian suffering that leads eventually to glorification.

C. Big Idea

Christians are joined to Jesus, and therefore they are God's adopted children. This identity means that they experience the fullness of life (both in the present and in eternity) by living in and according to the Spirit. They are coheirs with Christ as God Himself is their inheritance, and participate in the suffering of Jesus just as they will participate in His ultimate glory.

D. CG Takeaway

For our CG to meditate on the breadth and depth of the wonderful realities of being united to Jesus, to be adopted as God's children, to live in and by the Spirit, and to come to a deeper understanding of God as our ultimate inheritance.

E. Fallen Condition Focus

- To forget our identity in Jesus, and live a life of either lawlessness or legalism, to either live like we are still in the flesh or that we are still under the fear of God's law.

Interpretation and Observation

(Read the text notes to have a comprehensive understanding and help for the answers for this section)

What is the meaning of “you will die,” and “you will live” according to Paul in Romans? Is Paul referring to physical/biological life and death?

What is the “spirit of slavery?” How does it lead to fear?

What is the Spirit’s role in our adoption? How does it speak of our union with Christ? Consider also from Romans 8:9-17.

How were we made “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ?” What do we gain in our status as heirs, both now and in future?

Gospel Applications:

A. Fallen condition:

What is one area of your life where you are “living in the flesh”? How do we, instead of remembering that it leads to death (our destruction now, and in the future), are tempted to believe that it brings us life?

Notice the contrast of “spirit of slavery” and “Spirit of adoption.” How do we sometimes relate to God in a way that reveals fear/distance rather than love/intimacy?

What are some trials and challenges that we are wrestling with in our lives, because we are trying to live faithfully as God’s children?

B. Personal Renewal:

Think about how God has adopted you in Christ. How does this shape your heart and mind in putting “to death the deeds of the body?”

As you consider your own trials and sufferings, how does a) Jesus’ own suffering, death and resurrection give you hope in your circumstances? b) knowing that you have the gift of the Spirit, help us both in our suffering and our wrestling against sin?

C. Shaping Church Culture:

When we consider that God has adopted us (ourselves and others in the church) as His children, how does this truth shape your attitude towards investing in the lives of others?

Do we struggle to have conversations with our fellow CG members if we see them “living in the flesh”? Why should we and what are the key things (from the passage) that we can point them

back to?