

First Southern Baptist Church - April 12, 2023
Sons of God - Romans 8:15-27

Introduction:

1. Note that the Spirit is already received (9)
 - note we are led by that Spirit (14)
 - and... that is a sure sign we are the “sons of God” (14)
2. Sons of God, and Spirit of God are placed side by side here
 - we are Sons of God by the Spirit of God
3. The Spirit is a daily help

I. The Spirit Is: (15-18)

1. Not the Spirit of bondage - that leads to fear (15)
- !!). Note the spirit (lower case s) is contrasted with the Spirit (upper case S) here
2. “But” - you have received the Spirit of adoption - that leads to prayer
 - A. The cry “Abba” - or Father
 - B. The Spirit bears witness with our “spirit” (16)
 - Two spirits in verse 16 - Spirit vs spirit
 - Witness that we are the children of God
 - C. *Your sonship depends not on the fight, but on the presence of the Spirit
3. If then children... then heirs (verse 17)
 - If heirs, then joint heirs with Jesus
 - A. Heirs of what?
 - 1) glory
 - 2) and suffering - the lot of every believer - Mk. 8:34 - “anyone who wishes to be a follower of mine must leave self behind; he must take up his cross and come with me”
 - !!). *“Inheritance” is an image right out of the Old Testament - inherit the promised land - sons inherit, and we are sons
 - B. What about that suffering? - not worthy to be compared with the glory (18)
 - So, suffering and glory are juxtaposed in verse 17
 - !!). But suffering is the lot of the whole of creation as well - see verses 19ff
 - Example - suffering the “wages of sin” - the curses on mankind
 - C. What about that glory - revealed in us
 - *“revealed” is the link word that unites verse 18 with what follows

II. The Creature Groans (19-22)

1. The creature waits on “manifestation” - or as verse 18 calls it the “revelation” of the Sons of God (19)
 - so the Sons are revealed first, then after that the creature
 - understood best the “creature” is the created order... which is also under a curse - why? Because of the sin of mankind
 - the fate of mankind and the fate of the universe are closely tied. Because of man’s sin God made the universe the victim of frustration... -the curses
2. The creature was made subject to vanity (20)

- not willingly
- but by him who hath subjected it in home
- 3. The creature itself will be delivered (21)
 - from it's own "bondage" (compare verse 15)
 - from bondage to liberty
- 4. The creation "groans" (22)
 - groans and "travails" (a word used for birth pangs of a woman in labor)
 - so, the creation "labors" until now

III. We Ourselves Groan (23-27)

1. We ourselves... who have the firstfruits of the Spirit (23)
 - Ephesians 1:14 tells us that the Spirit is the "down payment" on more to come
 - the "already" and the "not yet"
 - Ephesians 1:14 is a different form of "inheritance"
2. We groan within ourselves - waiting
 - we expectantly "wait"
3. Waiting for what?
 - A. "Adoption" - what is that...
 - B. "To wit" means - "I mean" - the "redemption of the body"
 - 1) soul is redeemed at salvation - past
 - 2) body is redeemed in glory - future
 - given a new body... we "shall be changed"
 - 3) mind is being renewed - even now
 - C. Having the firstfruits... we groan for the fulfillment
4. So, where does that leave us? (24)
 - A. Now, we are hoping
 - B. Saved by hope
 - we do not "see" our hope... we must simply hope for it
 - C. So, what do we hope for? - "salvation"
 - D. We are hoping... for something we do not "see"... so we patiently "wait" for it (25)
5. As we "groan" - the Spirit does something else (26)
 - A. The Spirit cries Abba father (15)
 - B. The Spirit leads (14)
 - C. The Spirit gives life (10)
 - D. The Spirit intercedes (26)
6. The intercessory work of Holy Spirit
 - A. Helps us when we don't even know what to pray for
 - B. He makes intercession - with "groanings"
 - a different but similar type of groaning
 - C. He searches the "hearts"... and knows the "mind" of the Spirit (27)
 - so He is the ideal go-between or intercessor
 - D. According to God's will
 - we often don't know God's will, but the Spirit does
 - He pleads for us with God
 - He knows God's language

-He makes our hopelessly inadequate prayers become real prayers
There is always too much of ourselves in our prayers. We pray for the
wrong things, but the Spirit really wants what God wants.

The life of the believer... aided by God's Spirit - given at Pentecost

- daily things here

- we are "waiting" for the redemption of the body

- the Holy Spirit groans for us/ intercedes - aids in our communion with the Almighty