

Hostages and Heirs Romans 8:5-17

Beware that your sins don't overtake you and the scars of your own conscience become the ropes that tie you up.

Those who choose wickedness die for lack of self-control, for their foolish ways lead them astray, carrying them away as hostages—kidnapped captives robbed of destiny.

Proverbs 5:22,23

I. Fully Accepted

Now Christ lives His life in you! And even though your body may be dead because of the effects of sin, His life-giving Spirit imparts life to you because you are fully accepted by God. Yes, God raised Jesus to life! And since God's Spirit of Resurrection lives in you, He will also raise your dying body to life by the same Spirit that breathes life into you!

Romans 8:10-11

II. Tender Affection

The mature children of God are those who are moved by the impulses of the Holy Spirit. And you did not receive the "spirit of religious duty," leading you back into the fear of never being good enough. But you have received the "Spirit of full acceptance," enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as He rises up within us, our spirits join Him in saying the words of tender affection, "Beloved Father!" For the Holy Spirit makes God's fatherhood real to us as He whispers into our innermost being, "You are God's beloved child!"

Romans 8:14-16

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Roman Adoption

1. The adopted person lost all rights to his old family and gained all rights in his new family.
2. The adopted person became the full heir to his new father's estate even if there were other sons.
3. The adopted person's old life was completely wiped out.
4. In the eyes of Roman law and society it was as if the adopted person was literally and completely the son of his new father in every sense.

Slave	Son
Compulsion	Love
Insecure	Secure
External	Relationship
Work - No honor	Honored - Invitation to work

T. Keller

III. Joint Heirs

Since we are His true children, we qualify to share all His treasures, for indeed, we are heirs of God Himself. And since we are joined to Christ, we also inherit all that He is and all that He has. We will experience being co-glorified with Him provided that we accept His sufferings as our own.

Romans 8:17

Grace has transformed rebels into royalty to share Christ's inheritance.