

Title: WEAR THESE LABELS, ROMANS 8:12-17.
(Chatham, NJ; 06/07/09, AM) [Pc – Exegesis]

Theme: The Holy Spirit has made us sons and heirs, and because of this, we are free from the constraints placed on us by our sinful desires, the flesh.

Purpose: To explain our role as sons and heirs, and to exhort us to realize that we are not under any compulsion to obey our fleshly desires for Christ's atonement has neutralized them.

Introduction:

1. There are three labels—or name tags—that we should wear proudly as Christians: Sons, heirs, and free from debt.
2. Each label has a particular appeal for us.
3. Romans 8 explains the role of the Spirit as much as in most any other section of the New Testament including the Gospel of John.
4. While John reveals what his work will be, Romans tells us what he makes of us and how we can be free from our desires.
5. Think of what he makes of us as three name tags that we proudly wear.

I. We Are Sons.

A. Members of God's immediate family.

1. When Jesus was told that his family had approached and wanted to talk with him, he had a different slant on who his family truly is, 3:31-35.
2. Romans 8:14 explains that if we are led by the Spirit, then we are sons of God.
3. The leading takes place in accordance with the rule laid down in verse 5: we set our minds on one or the other.
4. This accords well with the description of each in Galatians 5.

B. An adoption that gives us full rights as sons.

1. We are no longer slaves.
2. Sin has no dominion over us, Romans 6:14.
3. The dramatic appeal made by Paul is that because we are sons, we are freed from fear.
4. Fear takes on many forms.
5. First, it could be the fear of not measuring up to the standards of the Law.
6. Second, this could lead to a fear of not belonging any longer.
7. Third, there are certainly numerous fears that haunt us by our simply living in a world of evil.
8. But a son can always depend on his Father loving and caring for him.

II. We Are Therefore Heirs.

A. Sons are inheritors.

1. Of family fortune
2. Of family traditions
3. Of family heirlooms
4. Of family promises
5. Of family benefits
6. Perhaps we think too quickly of the family fortune.

7. We might forget that there are more valuable things in belonging to the family: peace, happiness, comfort, and life.
8. These are the things of God's family.

B. Fellow heirs with Christ.

1. Jesus calls the disciples his friends.
2. Friends confide in one another.
3. Friends stick up for one another.
4. Friends lay down their lives for one another.
5. There is much to be said for being a fellow heir with Christ.
6. There is a small catch: we inherit the blessing provided we suffer with him, 17.
7. Go back to the struggles reflected in Zechariah's and Mary's songs: redemption implies something to be redeemed from, saved from our enemies implies conflict, and deliverance darkness implies struggle that must be overcome.
8. Yet as Sons we inherit the redemption, mercy and deliverance in every line of promise.

III. We Are Out of Debt.

A. Not debtors to the flesh any longer.

1. We are not obligated to obey its desires.
2. It holds no power over us.
3. We are not condemned by the law that takes advantage of the flesh to cause us to sin, Romans 8:1.

B. Flesh=death.

1. If we choose the sinful desires and their lifestyle, we die.
2. But if we choose the life of the spirit, we inherit eternal life.
3. What could be more appealing?

Conclusions:

1. Never forget that you are a child of God. You are a son.
2. Never think lightly that the inheritance you'll receive is not paid in gold or silver, but in the promise of life everlasting. You are heirs.
3. Never feel obligated to participate in the sinful desires and the death that they produce. You are out of debt: you have no obligation to sin. You are free.