



December 22, 2019

Sermon Series: Given

Week 3: God has Given Us Inheritance in Life and Eternity (Kingdom)

RECAP

- In Week 1, we learned that God has given us position in His family (Son). We are His heirs! Amen!
- In Week 2, we learned that God has given us closeness in relationship (Spirit). We have intimacy with our *Abba Father*!
- This week, we learn that God has given us inheritance in life and eternity (Kingdom).

Read Galatians 4: 4 – 7

“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”

v.7 *So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*”

OPENING TIME OF REFLECTION

Pretend you’re writing your Last Will and Testament. This is a document that outlines which of your physical assets will be left to your heirs. What items would you include and to whom would you leave them to? It’s not such an easy task to do! Physical assets don’t last forever and may even lose value over time. What’s more, deciding on how each of our assets get dispersed amongst our heirs can be challenging.

Now imagine what God’s ‘Will and Testament’ looks like. As a son to the Father in Christ, we are given the promise of joint-inheritance with Christ: **the Father’s presence, blessings and Kingdom**. This is an inheritance that lasts forever! Children who remain in the family will not be cut out of God’s inheritance. Nothing can destroy it, no one can steal it and it doesn’t ever lose value.

Open in Prayer

“Dear God: Thank you for my joint-inheritance with Christ. In Christ, you chose us, you revealed yourself to us, you regenerated us, you adopted us into your family, you are close and intimate with us through the Spirit, you never leave us, you work in us and through us and you have promised us life in your Kingdom that starts now and never ends all the way through to the new heaven and new earth. Thank you for our inheritance! Amen.”

DISCUSSION

Knowing that God has given us an inheritance, how do we respond to what God has given?

1. I Receive His Family Invitation

John 1:12: *But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.*

God's invitation to be adopted into His family is a gift of His grace to us in Christ. Therefore, we need to:

- reconsider our belief about Jesus → Messiah, the Son of God
- trust what He has done on our behalf (His life, death, resurrection)
- believe that He gives us His true, eternal, spiritual life within our being
- entrust Him with the leadership of our present life (through Spirit & Word)

Reflection: Have you ever received God's family invitation by believing and receiving Jesus into your inmost being? For those who have not, is there something that is holding you back from doing so? Share that with your LifeGroup. For those who have, are there any areas outlined above that you struggle to live out in your daily walk with Him?

2. I Enjoy His Family Privileges

Ephesians 1:3: *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

God blesses His children with every spiritual blessing in Christ:

- status as son
- in right relationship / standing with God
- deeply and unconditionally loved by the Father

Our Heavenly Father has given, continues to give and will give forever. A few privileges we have received from God:

- His always available presence
- The very spiritual life of Jesus within us; shares with us His nature
- Being forgiven, cleansed of sins (that create disharmony in our connection with God)
- His Word to reveal, teach, strengthen, warn, transform, equip and make us complete
- Holy Spirit to indwell, lead, teach, communicate convict, reveal, transform, empower
- Family of God for belonging, fellowship, growth, accountability, encouragement,
- Identity, purpose, meaning, significance, spiritual gifts
- God's care, provision, help, presence, perspective

Reflection: Share with your group a time when one of these privileges had a profound impact in your relationship with Him, with others, within ministry, etc. If there is a privilege not listed above, share that with your group and how it was used and in what context.

3. **I Fulfill His Family Responsibilities.**

“With great privilege comes great responsibility” – Voltaire / Spiderman. Variation by Gerry Gould.

a. I love, honour and obey the Father:

- i. with my whole being. Mark 12:30 “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, strength.” This is our deepest love and most devoted worship. We live our lives in faithful service (time, energy, prayer, spiritual gifts and talents) and our financial resources (gratitude; God is first; surrender and trust).
- ii. Surrender to Jesus’ functional leadership. 1 Peter 3:18 “but set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts”. Lord = our leader, master, president and general manager.
- iii. Live in step with the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14 “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

Reflection: Have you ever thought of Jesus as the “President” of your lives? What would that look like for you if you went to work and Jesus was your “General Manager”?

b. I become like a ‘son’ of the Father:

I pursue transformation into the image, family resemblance of God (His Son)

- i. Character / integrity; thinking / attitudes; affections / values; actions / reactions.
- ii. Set apart to live holy and godly life (morally, ethically, sexually, relationally) Roman 8:29 “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

Jesus lived a holy and godly life, and we are to follow in our eldest brother’s footsteps:

- iii. We live in union with Jesus
- iv. He gives us all we need for transformation (Spirit, Word, power to change)
- v. To the degree we cooperate with His working in us, and use (in faith) the resources He has made available to us, is the degree to which we will become more like Him.

Reflection: We are to follow in our eldest brother’s footsteps – these are big shoes to fill! Growing up, you were probably told on more than one occasion: “You look like your mother / father.” Beyond physical resemblance, what other attributes did you ‘inherit’? In our pursuit to transform our image in the resemblance of God, the good news is that He gives us *all we need for transformation* through the Spirit, Word and power to change! If you were to look into a mirror with God as our reflection, how do you resemble Him? What areas require transformation so that you can look more like Him?

c. I love my new spiritual siblings:

Our Heavenly Father has given us His love for people, especially for our siblings (brothers and sisters in Christ). He expects His kids to love each other! We must remove:

- i. Gossip, slander, jealous, malicious, envious, mocking
- ii. Hateful, prejudice, show partiality, judgemental, disrespectful,
- iii. Unforgiving, resentful carry bitterness towards

- iv. Tell wounding stories – or believe them without checking to see if they are true.

Ephesian 4:29 – 5:2. “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up...that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, rage and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us.”

Reflection: For those who have siblings, you may have experienced a time (or two!) when you have fought, spoke out against, made fun of one another etc. But God calls us to love each other, especially our spiritual siblings! Is there a time when you _____ (gossiped, slander, were jealous, envious, etc.) against your spiritual brother or sister? Confess that now before your Father in Heaven and if there is opportunity to do so, confess that to the person you offended.

d. **I hope in my family inheritance:**

Ultimately, the final and full inheritance belonging to the family of God is the full expression of unhindered relationship with God in the wonderful life to come.

- Being face-to-face with Jesus in unveiled glory and unfiltered love
- Unimaginable beauty and inconceivable joy of the new heaven and new earth
- Fully released from the presence and effect of sin
- Totally transformed character in glorified, immortal bodies
- A redeemed world with no sorrow, pain, sickness, hatred, war, sin and (finally) no death
- Ruling with Christ, creative, productive, meaningful work without toil
- Eternal rest and uninterrupted peace
- Uninhibited joy and mind-blowing worship
- Pure and perfect fellowship, with brothers and sisters in Christ
- Our hope lies not in this world, nor in this early life.

Reflection: Ephesians 1:13b – 14. “When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of His glory.”

God gives us the Spirit of His Son. He is a living guarantee, deposited within our souls. He is the “promise of the Father” and reminds us to hope in our inheritance.

- Can you say that you are responding in these four ways **increasingly**?
- Which of these four ways do you need to respond more fulsomely to the Father?

Close in Prayer:

Dear God: Thank you, for I have been redeemed from slavery to the Mosaic Law, adopted into the family of God, given the status as “son”, and given abundant privileges by the Father. I respond by: receiving your family invitation, enjoying your family privileges, fulfilling your family responsibilities and hoping in your family inheritance. I know that I need work in the area of _____ (name one of the areas). Holy Spirit, help me to overcome any shortcomings in this area, as I commit to responding to God’s adopting love today! Amen.