

12 So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in harmony with it. 13 For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live.

14 Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “Abba, Father!” 16 The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children.

17 Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

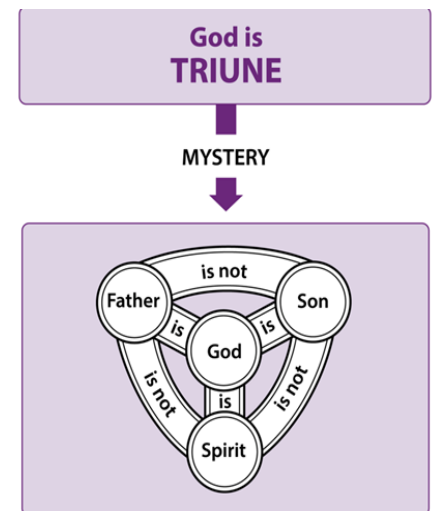
Dear People, who worship the Triune God,

What is your family experience? I listened in as several pastors discussed the fact that we come from different family backgrounds. Some people have a good experience others do not. For many people perhaps your family experience is mixed, sometimes good and sometimes not so good.

Today I am going to talk about a family that each of us belongs to. It is a real blessing because it is God’s family.

Our God is a Triune God. (*pic*) He is three persons in one divine being. How can something be three in one at the exact same time? We don’t know. The church has confessed that this is a mystery. However, in his word God tells us that he is three and one. We believe him, because he tells the truth.

Why is God important other than the fact that he rules our universe? This God has blessed us to be a part of his family. This is a good family. So it is important that we learn about our God. As we talk about each person—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit-- we will learn about wonderful blessings that we possess. St. Paul highlights these blessings in Romans, chapter 8.



We hear: **The Triune God Delivers the Blessings It Offers.**

1. The child of God lives by the Spirit.



You have been summoned for Jury Service.
**YOUR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE
IS REQUIRED AT**
www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/juryServices
SUPERIOR COURT IN MARICOPA COUNTY
175 W. MADISON ST. FIRST FLOOR, SUITE 1303
PHOENIX, AZ 85003



Appearance Date: **Wednesday, April 03, 2013** Group Number: **3001**

Through our website you may request to postpone your jury service or request to be excused or disqualified from jury service. Instructions are in the FAQ section of our website.

We have obligations. You may from time to time receive a jury summons. It doesn't always give us a great feeling if we are busy, but it is our obligation. It is a role God has given for us to carry out in our community.

As St. Paul writes he points out that the children of God have an obligation. In many ways it is a perfectly sensible and easy obligation. We are to live in the Christian spirit that the Holy Spirit has given us.

A. St. Paul tells the obligation is not to live according to the sinful flesh, but according to the new spirit we have been given.

This is not always easy. In our earthly families when someone has invaded our space, borrowed something without asking or said something obnoxious or mean, we get angry. Very often we lash out. Phrases come out like *"You did it again!"* or *"How dare you do that?"* or *"I am going to make you pay!"*

I could talk about the fact that when we don't feel loved in our family and circle of friends so we turn to addictive behaviors. We binge on suggestive or inappropriate videos, we overeat food or indulge in too much alcohol.

St. Paul correctly warns, **"if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die."** We not ONLY lose blessings, but we lose life with God.

B. The Holy Spirit is present to lead us to put death the sinful nature.

1. He uses the Word of God. He points out when we are harmonizing with our flesh. He leads us to repentance. Through Word and Sacrament he has a means by which we receive forgiving grace. He keeps our spirit in harmony with our God.

2. He gives us a godly view of life. We hate sin and avoid what is evil. We love good and work hard to do what is right.

Example: He gives us Christian elders and peers to imitate from little on. As we get older we seek to understand why we avoid evil and do what is good.

Examples: Confirmation, Bible Class.

Led by the Spirit we understand avoiding evil and doing good. This allows for daily blessings. We still might have questions. St. Paul speaks of a benefit that we have in connection with the heavenly Father.

2. The child of God prays to a heavenly Father.

Romans citizens were proud of their Roman citizenship. It was valuable. The Roman Commander in Acts 22:28 tells Paul, **“I acquired this citizenship for a large sum of money.”** Paul said, **“But I was born a citizen.”** Paul escaped a beating by soldiers because of this. It was one of the most privileged identities in the ancient western world. It is very similar to being a U.S. citizen over the last 75 years.

Christians have a new citizenship. St. Paul says we are “sons” of God. As sons and daughters of God we have the benefit of praying to our heavenly Father.

A. The apostle says we are **sons of God** and therefore we don't have a **spirit of slavery** and we are not afraid. What is he referring to?

1. Have you ever done something bad in your life and you didn't pray because you thought, *“There is no way that God is going to hear or answer my prayer.”* Then later on after some time passed by you did pray. That is being a slave to fear and it is not good.

First we don't pray because we are afraid of God's reaction. Then we do pray. Why? Because enough time has been passed where I have been good and God will probably listen now. That is being a slave to God's Law. If I do enough good things, God will take me back. This is terrible thinking! God is not petty that he won't listen. Nor can we earn his favor ever!

2. When you mess up, when you sin, go to God!! Humbly confess what you have done. Confidently look to the Father's forgiveness in Jesus. He listens to you because he washed away all your sins in your Baptism. Paul tells us in Galatians 3:26,27 **“In fact, you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Indeed, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.”** Our adoption means we will always be his dear children.

B. As “sons” of God we have the privilege of calling on God. We cry out “Abba.” Father! When a good father hears his child cry out, he listens. Our heavenly Father listens. He answers our prayers in a way that best helps us.

Application: In the last year we had pastoral vacancies in Glendale and Peoria. I prayed for the Lord to help with what I thought was an important need. Whereas many churches are going a year or two without a filling a vacancy, these two churches received pastors in less than a year. It was a gift from our God. Please pray as there are still around 160 pastoral vacancies in our churches.

Since Paul is speaking of the Trinity, he also brings up the Son in verse 17.

3. The child of God shares in the inheritance of Christ.

Jesus is a part of the Trinity because he is the Son of God. In him we really see the advantages of being a “son” or child. There is an inheritance. Jesus by becoming the Savior King inherited a kingdom. Now, we share in the inheritance of Christ.

A. We inherit suffering.

1. We do because we show love to God and others. People don't like our good behavior. It makes their bad behavior look bad. We also adhere to his word. We love what is good and hate what is evil. That brings suffering. The truth is that you and I groan and chafe under the cross of suffering. We get mad at our Father or we despair. The Triune God gives us hope. This sees us through.

2. We are comforted with Christ's suffering. (pic) Jesus suffered unspeakable things, unspeakable agonies. He did not have to do so. He shouldered our suffering. He won for us the status of being sons and daughters of God. Without him there is no adoption. We look at the Baptismal font for our identity. We look at the cross to see God's deep affection for us.



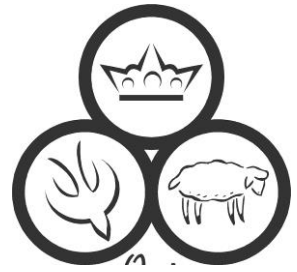
B. We not only suffer with Christ, be also inherit with him.

1. Jesus was glorified after his suffering. He was alive and healed. He ascended to heaven. He will return some day and reveal his victory over all his enemies.

2. We share in his glory. We too will be raised, healed and share in his triumph. We will live forever with him and the Father. We will enjoy our

Triune God's blessings for all eternity.

Conclusion: (pic) The Trinity is a mystery. However, we can still have symbols that reminds us of some of the truths of our God. He is three persons in one God. He works for our benefit.



St. Paul in Romans 8 reminds us of these benefits. We are led by the Spirit. We are adopted by the Father who hears our prayers. We suffer with Jesus, but also share his inheritance. Our God may be something of mystery, but don't let his work and his blessings for us be a mystery. Take time to learn about these in his word. Our Triune God delivers. Amen.