

## **17. COMMUNION WITH CHRIST IN PRIVILEGES**

ACCEPTANCE – HOLINESS – PRIVILEGES (THE 3 GREAT PURCHASED BLESSINGS)

The difference between the liberty of slaves, and the liberty of the children of God is that slaves find their freedom in the release from their duties, whereas the children of God find their freedom in their duties to God. We had a wonderful example of this in, our study on Romans by Stuart Olyott, when the female character worked as a servant, she resented the masters' rules and instructions, but when she became the master's wife, nothing was too much trouble to please her husband!!!

We do not choose whether or not we will obey God, the liberty of the sons is in the inward spiritual freedom of their hearts, gladly and willing obeying God in everything.

Love gives joy and delight in obedience **JN 14:15** "If you love me, keep my commandments" When a person obeys out of love, all fear is cast out. Fear arises when our obedience is to be the subject of judgement. To unrepentant sinners God is to be feared. To repentant sinners, God is to be loved. Receiving love from the Father, they pour out their love on Him. Their obedience is motivated by love, ruled by the law of liberty, stripped of all fear.

The second thing the children of God have by adoption is a title, or privilege. We as the children of God have a right and title to all the privileges of the family of God. We are no more the slaves to sin and the evil one, as we have legally been adopted into the family to God. We are now the sons and daughters of God and have been granted heirship to the Kingdom.

God has set up Christ to minister all Spiritual things to God's family on earth. This earthly ministry intending to bring glory to God through obedience of His children here on earth. Believers have a right and title to all the privileges of Christ's ministry here on earth. This ministry of Christ on earth is to encourage and perfect His children in the service and worship of God here on earth.

Although Christ's preaching ministry is primarily aimed at those who have been set aside for salvation, nevertheless those that have ears, let them hear. This earthly ministry is to nurture God's elect. The Church is the house of God, and Christ keeps and maintains His whole family, ruling them according to His mind and will. We also see that none but the elect have any title or right, to the privileges of God's household.

When we consider the nature of God's house, we see that it is made up of living stones – all chosen or set aside specifically by God as a royal priesthood, a holy nation. The way of this house is glorious. It is a way of holiness which the unclean may not walk.

We consider the privileges of the house of God. These privileges will not suit others that are not of this household. We do not give food to a dead man, as he is not able to benefit in any way from this nourishment. Spiritual food is for living souls – those that have been made alive by regeneration. To give unbelievers the things enjoyed by Saints would be to “cast pearls before swine”.

The children of God have been entrusted with all the ordinances of God's house. The Lord will give them hearts to make use of these privileges, and not to wander on the mountains, forgetting their resting place. **JER 31:33**. They are heirs of all that was promised to Abraham in and with Christ.

The children of God are heirs to a threefold inheritance.

- a. The children of God are heirs to the promise **GAL 3:29** “If you belong to Christ, you are then Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise”. The promise to Abraham, was to Isaac, Jacob and the Spiritual offspring of Abraham from all nations, tribes and peoples. **GEN 17:3-5 and GEN 18:18**
- b. The children of God are heirs to righteousness, which is ours by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This righteousness not only applies to this life, but it is a righteousness that will reach perfection in glory. It is the righteousness that Christ earned for us in His obedience to the Father's will.
- c. The children of God are heirs of Salvation, and heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The fulness of that Salvation is eternal glory. To these, the sons of God, have a right and title through the Blessed work of Christ. They are made heirs with Christ. He is their portion and inheritance, and they are His portion and inheritance.

Saints also have a right and a title to things of the world, and all that God is pleased to entrust to them. In the beginning God gave man the right to rule over the earth – **GEN 1:28** “.... Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves on the ground”. But man lost this right at the fall. All creation ceased to be subject to man. They no longer show faith and the glory of God to man. Despite this, God has not destroyed creation, in order that it may pass as an inheritance to the Saints – those redeemed by Christ. So now as fellow – heirs with Christ, the right and title to creation has been restored to us.

However, a very important point to note is that believers do not have the same right that Christ has. Christ has the sovereign and supreme right to do what He wills with His own. The rights that we have are subordinate to Christ. We are still accountable for the use of these things (Stewards). The right is Christ’s as Lord of the house. Christ governs this earth and all creation so that “all things work together for the good of the saints”. This is a Spiritual right belonging to believers. Unbelievers have no Spiritual right to the things of the earth.

God has providentially arranged the bounds of all men in regard to civil rights. Although unbelievers may have civil rights to certain assets, they do not have Spiritual rights to them. Whatever God has been pleased to give his Saints, they have that right only through Christ, who has redeemed it from the curse for the enjoyment of His saints.

Unbelievers may have a civil right to many things of the earth, but they do not have a Spiritual sanctified right to a place in the house of God.

Unbelievers do not use any of their earthly possessions to bring glory to God and have often denied these things to the children to God. This aggravates their guilt.

And god will say “Why have you stolen that which is not yours. Give me back what is mine.”

Other privileges of our adoption are: -

- a. We have boldness with God by Christ **HEB 10:19** – we now have confidence to enter the Most Holy place through the blood of Jesus. We are now enabled to approach the throne of grace by the blood of Jesus.
- b. Affliction from love and leading to our Spiritual good. **HEB 12:3-6** We have not suffered to the point of shedding our blood, but **v6**, because the Lord disciplines those whom He loves.
- c. We have the privilege of being called the Sons of God. **1 JN 3:1**
- d. We are heirs and joint heirs with Christ. **ROM 8:17**
- e. We are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ **ROM 8:29**
- f. We are called Christ’s brethren. **HEB 2:11**
- g. We have fellowship in Christ’s sufferings **ROM 8:17**
- h. Christ learned obedience by what He suffered, and every son that He receives is to be disciplined **HEB 12:6**
- i. We shall have fellowship in His Kingdom **2 TIM 2:2**