

“Don’t Mess with Me! My Father is God!”

Romans 8.14-17

Could NOT FIND phrase ‘God the Father Almighty’ or ‘Father Almighty’  
In ANY VERSION of my ENGLISH BIBLE > End of Sermon!!?

J.W.’s WORD ‘TRINITY’ is NOT in Bible > Word BIBLE not in BIBLE  
QUESTION – Is IDEA Word is trying to CAPTURE in the BIBLE?  
Is TRINITY or God as FATHER ALMIGHTY a BIBLICAL TEACHING?

Review PURPOSE of the CREED:

1. Clear, simple, statement of Truths of the Gospel
2. Correct False Teachings
3. Foundation for true Christian Fellowship
4. Encourage Balance and Doctrinal clarity in Church Teaching

TODAY > PRIMARY FOCUS on Romans 8

Series SO FAR 3 GREAT BOOKS: Deut, Hebrews, Romans > READ ALL!

ROMANS may be Greatest BOOK in Bible > Ch 8 Greatest CHAPTER!

“Romans is the chief part of the New Testament, and the very purest gospel”  
Martin Luther

God’s Wisdom revealed in Romans -

**Chapters 1 – 4: God justifies sinners and remains just; by sending His  
own Son to fulfill the just demands of the law.**

Jesus dies our Death / Pays our sin’s Penalty / Fulfills God’s Righteousness  
Who would imagine that Creator would die in place of His Creatures?

Now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known... This  
righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who  
believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory  
of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that  
came by Christ Jesus.  
Romans 3.21-24

## **Chapters 5 – 8: God demands our obedience even though salvation is a gift of grace.**

Grace = Our works have no part of Salvation, no Merit, Undeserved  
 Wisdom of God > He SAVES and SANCTIFIES > Redeems & Regenerates  
 New Record and New Heart / Blood of Christ and Fullness of Holy Spirit  
 God who Freely Saves now demands Faithful Service  
 Obedience becomes the EVIDENCE that one is SAVED BY GRACE

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.... You are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness... Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation - but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8.1-13

1. Belonging to the Family 2. Boldness over Fear 3. Blessings for the Future

## 1. Belonging to the Family

### a. Belonging

The child who has been able to grow up harmoniously in a healthy home finds a welcome everywhere. In infancy all he needs is a stick placed across two chairs to make himself a house, in which he feels quite at home. Later on, wherever he goes, he will be able to make any place his own, without any effort on his part. For him it will not be a matter of seeking, but of choosing.....when a family is such that the child cannot fit himself into it properly, he looks everywhere for some other place, leading a wandering existence, incapable of settling down anywhere. His tragedy is that he carries about within himself this fundamental incapacity for any real attachment.

Paul Tournier (Swiss Psychologist)

CONFESS "I believe in God the Father Almighty" > 'I BELONG to HIM'

Thou hast formed us for thyself...and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee.

Augustine of Hippo

WAIT! Isn't EVERYONE a CHILD of GOD?? *Yes and No!*

Father Zeus, who rules over the gods and mortal men.

Homer

'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Acts 17.28

God is Father of His Creation – He made it > But now ALIENATED World MADE by GOD > RUNNING from MAKER > Sinful ESTRANGEMENT

BIBLE and CREED > PRIMARY Ref. to God as FATHER > OF JESUS

Praise be to the *God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ* Ephesians 1.3

Jesus to Mary Magdalene on Easter morning: "...I am returning to my *Father and your Father, to my God and your God.*"

John 20.17

SALVATION – ENTER that FAMILY of God’s Grace through JESUS

We know God as father because Jesus calls him father, reveals himself as God’s son  
 Luke Timothy Johnson

You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and *members of God's household*  
 Ephesians 2.19

WITHOUT Jesus > God is NOT YET your HEAVENLY FATHER!  
 God MADE you but NOT YET SAVED You! Born, NOT YET Born Again!

God MADE Israel > But NOT all Israel was Israel > NOT ALL SAVED  
 Jesus to Jews: “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”  
 They answered him, “*We are Abraham's descendants* and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin... “We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “*The only Father we have is God himself.*” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here...*You belong to your father, the devil,* and you want to carry out your father's desire. John 8.32-44

Jesus puts to an end the misleading doctrine that God is the Father of all and all are his children.  
 James Boice

CRY of SHOCK, SADDNESS > HOW HAVE THEY MISSED OUT!  
 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you” John 17.25

WONDER of SALVATION > Justification, Regeneration and Adoption

*Justification* means our acceptance with God as righteous and the bestowal of the title to everlasting life. *Regeneration* is the renewing of our hearts after the image of God. But these blessings in themselves, however precious they are, do not indicate what is conferred by the act of adoption. By *adoption* the redeemed become *sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty*; they are introduced into and given the privileges of God’s family. John Murray

See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children - think of it - and we really are! 1 John 3.1 TLB

Family with TWO Children > One ADOPTED, Other NATURAL Birth  
 Q to Adopted Child: ‘Do you FEEL Different because you were Adopted?’  
 A: ‘Of Course, they just HAD Her, but they CHOSE ME!’

“Don’t Mess with Me! My Father is God!”

Although I be oppressed with anguish and terror on every side, and seem to be forsaken and utterly cast away from thy presence, yet I am thy child, and thou art my Father for Christ’s sake: I am beloved because of the Beloved.

Martin Luther

b. Behaving

SIGN of BELONGING to FAMILY > Family RESEMBLANCE

SONS Young > One person ‘They look just like Mark’ / Another ‘Dayna’  
 GOOD POINT – LOOKED like ONE of US > WE are the PARENTS!

Romans 8 – First Occurrence of IDEA we are CHILDREN of GOD in Letter FOUR Verses – 14-17 – CHILDREN of God mentioned in EACH VERSE

v. 14 those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God

The daily, hourly putting to death of the schemings and enterprises of the sinful flesh by means of the Spirit is a matter of being led, directed, impelled, controlled by the Spirit.

C.E.B. Cranfield

SPIRIT who LEADS is HOLY SPIRIT > Toward Good, Righteous, True

CONFESS “I believe in God the Father Almighty” > MORAL DEMAND

Malachi TIME of RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY > Sacrifices Lame, Blind!  
 Going to DIE ANYWAY – Give it to GOD > Get SOMETHING out of IT!

"A son honors his father... If I am a father, where is the honor due me?..."  
says the LORD Almighty Malachi 1.6

This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. 1 John 3.10

To all who received him, to those who *believed* in his name, he gave the *right to become children of God* John 1.12

## 2. Boldness over Fear

vs. 15,16 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

CONFESS "I believe in God the Father Almighty" > CONQUER FEAR!

### a. Child

vs. 15, 16 you received the Spirit of sonship... The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

1) Radical > DRAMATIC, PROFOUND CHANGE > 180 degree TURN

LANGUAGE of Jesus and John > Children of GOD or Children of DEVIL

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. Romans 8.6-7

ROMANS 8 > Paul PRESENTS TWO DISTINCT Spiritual STATES:

Unregenerate	Regenerate
Dead in Sin	Alive in Christ
In the Flesh	In the Spirit

Mind of the Flesh

Mind of the Spirit

Live in the Flesh

Live by the Spirit

Enemy of God

Reconciled to God

Death

Life

## 2) Supernatural > CHANGE only GOD could ACHIEVE

Jesus to Nicodemus: "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."  
John 3.3

Born Again = BORN from ABOVE > New LIFE is GIVEN by GOD

You, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.  
Isaiah 63.16

## 3) New Status > from SLAVES to SONS and DAUGHTERS

Like PEYTON – John Wesley – Confessed Apostle's Creed before SAVED  
MET Jesus – Experienced SALVATION – Everything CHANGED:  
I exchanged the faith of a servant for the faith of a son. John Wesley

When we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.  
Galatians 4.1-7

A father in ancient times would officially adopt his own son as his legal representative and heir. This was an important moment in the coming of age of a Jewish, Greek or Roman child. Before, he was a son by birth. Now he became a son legally and passed from care of his guardian trustee into manhood.  
James Boice

TIME of Jesus was WIDE DISTANCE btwn GOD and PEOPLE of Israel  
 NAMES of GOD increasingly WITHHELD from Public Speech & Prayer

TREND was COMPLETELY OVERTURNED by Jesus >> ABBA!  
 ABBA = 'Daddy' - ARAMAIC > Used by HEBREW Speaking Families

1. Title was NEW with JESUS
2. Jesus ALWAYS used this form of ADDRESS in PRAYER
3. Jesus AUTHORIZED his DISCIPLES to use it

The Spirit will replace fear of God with the freedom that children enjoy with their father. Those who are slaves to sin have good reason to fear God, but as children, we can acquire boldness to approach God as our Father.

David M. Kasali (Theologian from Congo)

#### b. Father

v. 16 And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

FATHER? Term of ENDEARMENT to Some / REVULSION to Others  
 Some FATHERS are OGRES who BEAT, ABUSE, and BERATE Kids

If that was YOUR Father > You NEED HEAVENLY FATHER Good DAD!

The God of the Bible is a sexless God. When Scripture speaks of God as 'he,' the pronoun is primarily personal and generic rather than masculine and specific. It emphasizes God's personality in contrast to impersonal entities.

Carl Henry

FATHER = Loving CARE, Gracious PROVISION, PROTECTION

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him

Psalm 103.13

Calling GOD FATHER – No SUPPORT for CHAUVINISM or ABUSE  
 Just because God MOST OFTEN described with MALE LANGUAGE, does not MAKE MEN any more GOD-LIKE or IMPORTANT than WOMEN

Sometimes GOD is DESCRIBED with FEMININE References

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!

Isaiah 49.15

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.

Isaiah 66.13

EVEN Jesus DESCRIBES Himself in FEMININE LANGUAGE...

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

Luke 13.34

SOME made GENDER NEUTRAL Bible – Songs – Creeds

DANGEROUS – Beyond our RIGHTS to CHANGE Words of BIBLE

While replacing male language with female language has some appeal to women who have heard nothing but ‘man talk’ in the church since infancy, it is not clear how speaking of a goddess rather than a god improves things for long, except for those who actually prefer to celebrate the divine as a pure projection of their own gender, or for those who fundamentally want to leave Christianity altogether.

Luke Timothy Johnson

Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds-- his name is the LORD-- and rejoice before him. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families

Psalm 68.4-6

c. Almighty = able to do all things / OMNIPOTENT – All Powerful

Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine  
Ephesians 3.20

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9.8

A father's heart moves the almighty hand. Divine power is not controlled by a cold, calculating mind, but by the heart of a warm, loving, divine, Father.

Donald Cole

Jesus TAUGHT us to PRAY -

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name... Matthew 6.9

FATHER > INTIMATE // IN HEAVEN > ULTIMATE  
APPROACHABLE and ABSOLUTE / MERCIFUL and MIGHTY

The truth of God's almightiness in creation, providence, and grace is the basis of all our trust, peace, and joy in God - all our hopes of answered prayer, present protection, and final salvation. It means that neither fate, nor the stars, nor blind chance, nor man's folly, nor Satan's malice controls the world. Instead, a morally perfect God runs it, and none can dethrone Him or thwart his purposes of love.

J.I. Packer

AMAZING MOMENT – Anticipates AGONY of CROSS – FULL TRUST!  
They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray... My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death... *Abba, Father everything is possible for you...* Mark 14.32-36

### 3. Blessings for the Future

v. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Cecil RHODES > One of RICHEST People in History / Died 1902  
ENGLISHMAN made money from DIAMONDS in SOUTH AFRICA  
DIED at 49 > Family Gathered for READING of WILL > What they get?  
GREAT Disappointment > LEFT FORTUNE for Rhodes SCHOLARSHIPS  
Brother ARTHUR **'Well, there it is. It seems I have to win a scholarship!'**

HEIR of GOD – Co-Heir with Christ – NO SUCH DISAPPOINTMENT  
 HEIR = SOMETHING Coming to Us > HEIR of GOD HIMSELF!!

CONFESS “I believe in God the Father Almighty” Impact NOW & Forever

### Heavenly Home

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.  
 John 14.2-3

### Heavenly Banquet

“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”  
 Revelation 19.9

### Rule with Christ

If we endure, we will also reign with him.  
 2 Timothy 2.12

### Made Like Christ

We know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.  
 1 John 3.2

All believers are ‘led by the Spirit’ (v. 14), have ‘received a Spirit of adoption’ (v. 15), cry ‘Abba, Father’ as the Spirit bears witness to them (v. 16), and are therefore heirs (v. 17). There is no indication in these four verses that a special, distinctive or overwhelming experience is in mind, which needs to be sought by all but is given only to some. On the contrary, the whole paragraph appears to be descriptive of what is, or should be, common to all believers.  
 John Stott

Special MEANING to ME > I was ADOPTED > SPOILED by LOVE  
 Parents DIED, LEFT Small INHERITANCE: Gone > Rather HAVE THEM

**OBJECTIVE GENITIVE: We have GOD HIMSELF as our INHERITANCE**

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my  
portion forever. Psalm 73.25-26

"The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." Lamentations 3.24

To the tribe of Levi, Moses had given no inheritance; the LORD, the God of  
Israel, is their inheritance, as he promised them. Joshua 13.33

v. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs  
with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also  
share in his glory.

**God's Children ENTER into POSSESSION of INHERITANCE of JESUS  
Carry HIS CROSS – Share in HIS GLORY > from CROSS to CROWN**

Is God our Father? Then we know that we belong to him forever. We shall  
know that while we are being led, taught and educated for life's tasks,  
nothing shall interfere with his purpose for us in Christ...If God is our  
inheritance, we can be assured of our salvation, since nothing is ever going to  
move God. Nothing is ever going to dispossess us of our heavenly  
inheritance. James Boice

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see  
my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the  
creation of the world. John 17.24

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the  
Almighty. Psalm 91.1

**5 Young Men HELD On to THAT VERSE in Remote area in ECUADOR  
Sought to REACH Unreached INDIAN Tribe > w/ GOOD NEWS of Jesus  
ACCEPTED Dangerous MISSION > Dared to MEET HOSTILE Tribesmen**

Night BEFORE SANG HYMN with WIVES and CHILDREN :  
 'We Rest on Thee Our Shield and Our Defender'  
 NEXT DAY – SPEARED to DEATH by TRIBESMEN  
 BODIES found FLOATING in the Jungle RIVER

**If indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.**

Jesus ALWAYS used 'ABBA' in PRAYER > ONLY ONE EXCEPTION –

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-which means,  
*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* Matt 27.46

Moment MADE SIN for US > Eternal INTIMACY w/ Father Briefly Broken  
 SON of GOD – ESTRANGED from FATHER GOD – SKY was DARK

Because of CROSS we Come to GOD as His FORGIVEN CHILD

ENDURED the CROSS – Restored US to GOD the FATHER ALMIGHTY  
 Our PORTION and our INHERITANCE is in HIM

Because of JESUS and HIS CROSS > GOD our FATHER > We BELONG!

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22.3-5

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