

## Getting a New Family

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Romans 8:12-17

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### Synopsis:

Last week I told you that justification is about getting life right. Everyone tries to do it. No one succeeds. The Bible teaches that we get life right not on our own but through trust in what God does in Jesus.

If getting our life right comes through what God does in Jesus, how then do we engage this new life, how do we get in on it? The New Testament calls this process adoption. God's Spirit serves as midwife to bring us into a new family.

### I.

#### **A Brand New Ma and a Better Pa?**

**Rom 8:16 It is that very Spirit bearing witness that we are children of God.**

*Clarence* by Shel Silverstein (READ)

Clarence, by Shel Silverstein

Clarence Lee from Tennessee  
Loved the commercials he saw on TV.  
He watched with wide believing eyes  
And bought everything they advertised-  
Cream to make his skin feel better,  
Spray to make his hair look wetter,  
Bleach to make his white things whiter,  
Stylish jeans that fit much tighter.  
Toothpaste for his cavities,  
Powder for his doggies fleas,  
Purple mouthwash for his breath,  
Deodorant to stop his sweat.  
He bought each cereal they presented,  
Bought each game they invented.  
Then one day he looked and saw  
"A brand-new Maw, and better Paw!

New improved in every way-  
Hurry order yours today!"  
So, of course, our little Clarence  
Sent off for two brand-new parents.  
The new ones came in the morning mail,  
His old ones he sold at garage sale.  
And now they're all doing fine:  
His new folks treat him nice and kind,  
His old ones work in an old coal mine.  
So if your Maw and Paw are mean  
And make you eat your lima beans  
And make you wash and make you wait  
And never let you stay up late  
And scream and scold and preach and pout,  
That simply means they're wearing out.  
So send off for two brand-new parents  
And you'll be as happy as little Clarence

Follow this analogy with me. If our old parents are mean, and make us eat lima beans. And, if our mean, old parents are those we choose through missing the mark (sin) and falling off track (trespass), how do we find the new Ma and Pa?

## II.

### **The Old Ma and Pa**

**Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die**

Caution regarding a family analogy:

- Some have bad and good families
- God is neither male nor female
- God is personal, hence the analogy to family
- Bible uses terms like covenant, election, adoption
- Most powerful experience we have is family
- Jesus uses the term Father for God = personal

Some Terms to Define:

- Flesh (13x here) = mean old Ma and Pa
- Spirit (21x here) = brand new Ma and Pa

Save Spirit until next slide

READ: Get our your Bibles

Romans 5:18-19 to set up Romans 8

Romans 8:1-11 to get the argument

Romans 8:11 sets up 12-17

Notice Spirit and Flesh

A MEAN OLD MA AND PA

Flesh = Realm in rebellion against God

-does not mean body (v11)

-means bodies against God (v10)

-is hostile, rebellious (v7)

-leads to slavery (stuck and under evil parents) (v15)

-main characteristic is fear (v15)

-get in the family through sin and trespass (miss and fall) (v2)

-leads to death of the body (v10)

Flesh is the mean old Ma and Pa

We choose the mean old Ma and Pa family

We stay in it through a mindset (vv 5,6)

### III.

**A Brand New Ma and a Better Pa**

**Rom 8:15 But you have received a spirit of adoption when we cry, "Abba! Father!"**

A BETTER MA AND PA

Now Spirit (21x here) = not our spirit, but God's Spirit

-Comes from God to give life (v2)

Gen 1-2 Spirit comes to bring life

Ezek 2 Spirit inspires prophets

Acts 2 Spirit empowers testimony

-Leads to life and not death (v13)

-Sets people free from slavery (v15)

-Gives peace (v6)

-Gives intimacy with God instead of fear (v15)

-Adopts us into a new family (v15)

-Makes you children and heirs (v17)

-Takes us through suffering to glory (v17)

Spirit is the brand new Ma and better Pa  
God chooses to give us the brand new Ma and Pa family  
We stay in it through a mindset

Through trust in Jesus Christ,  
we live in a loving and life-giving family.

So What? Think of being adopted into a new family  
-You now have brothers and sisters in a loving family  
-We now fight against flesh, before we didn't  
-We now suffer in order to achieve glory  
    process is suffering (Jesus)  
    result is glory (our true identity)

### **Orphan Girl (Gillian Welch)**

I am an orphan on God's highway  
But I'll share my troubles if you go my way  
I have no mother no father  
No sister no brother  
I am an orphan girl

I have had friendships pure and golden  
But the ties of kinship I have not known them  
I know no mother no father  
No sister no brother  
I am an orphan girl

But when He calls me I will be able  
To meet my family at God's table  
I'll meet my mother my father  
My sister my brother  
No more orphan girl

Blessed Savior make me willing  
And walk beside me until I'm with them  
Be my mother my father  
My sister my brother

I am an orphan girl