



Life in the Spirit (3)

Romans 6:18-27

Romans 8:17

17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Glorious Identity

- **Heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.**
- **We belong to God and we have God as our inheritance.**

The Problem of Suffering

“They were ridiculed, hated, abused, and eventually martyred for their faith in great numbers.

In addition, they endured the many disappointments, deaths, deprivations, and disasters common to all human life in a fallen and extremely sinful world.”

- James M. Boice

1. Our suffering and sharing in the glory of God is inseparable.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

1. Our suffering and sharing in the glory of God is inseparable.

- There is value in our suffering for the sake of Christ (and our witness to Christ), and for the sake of our growth to be like Christ.**

1. Our suffering and sharing in the glory of God is inseparable.

- **“Suffering is not the end of the story for Christians. Glory is!”**

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8.18)

**The sufferings and the glory
concern both God's creation and
God's children.**

Groaning of God's Creation

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it

...

22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

(Romans 8: 20, 22)

Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

(Ecclesiastes 1:2, NIV)

The world that we are living in is God’s creation but it is not what it was created to be.

Romans 8

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

...

21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Redemption of God's Creation

- **The world that we are living in is God's creation but it is not what it was created to be.**
- **The world will one day be fully redeemed and transformed.**

Redemption of Our Bodies

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8: 23)

Redemption of Our Bodies

- **The day will come when these imperfect, corrupted and weak bodies are going to be transformed into bodies that are perfect, sinless and glorious, like the resurrection body of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Redemption of God's Creation

- **The world that we are living in is God's creation but it is not what it was created to be.**
- **The world will one day be fully redeemed and transformed.**
- **See Romans 8:19,21**

“The bondage to decay will give place to the freedom of glory (21).

The pains of labour will be followed by the joys of birth (22).

There is therefore going to be both continuity and discontinuity in the regeneration of the world, as in the resurrection of the body.

The universe is not going to be destroyed, but rather liberated, transformed and suffused with the glory of God.” (John Stott)

Prophetic vision of how this redeemed and glorified world looks like in Isaiah 11 and Revelation 21

**6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.
(Isaiah 11:6)**

**2. In times of suffering, we hope,
knowing that “*suffering is not the end of
the story for Christians. Glory is!*”
(See Romans 8:24-25)**

**“The Christian’s pain is very real, but it’s
the pain of a mother anticipating the joy
of holding her child.”
(See Romans 8:22)**

3. We wait eagerly and patiently

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

...

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

(Romans 8: 23, 25)

3. We wait eagerly and patiently

“We are to wait neither so eagerly that we lose our patience, nor so patiently that we lose our expectation, but eagerly and patiently together.” (John Stott)

“Of course, we are not yet bodily raised as one day we shall be. That remains in the future. That future is secure and certain, as Paul says in 8.11 and in the entire argument in 1 Corinthians 15, but it remains in the future none the less ...

... But part of the point of being a Christian is that the future has come forward into the present in the person and achievement of Jesus, so that his followers already taste the reality of that future while living in the present.”

(N. T. Wright)

Help from the Holy Spirit

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

(Romans 8: 26-27)

**How are we to live in light of the
glorious eternity?**

**“Only what's done for Christ will last.”
(C. T. Studd)**

**So I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried
about anything. I'm not fearing any
man. Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord!**

- Martin Luther King -