

Privileges

- **Privilege:** *Webster:* a special right, favor, etc. granted to some person or group.
Right: *Webster:* 2. a power, privilege, etc. belonging to one by law, nature, etc.

The following are special rights, favors and or privileges that belong to those who have been, and continue to be, faithful members of “*the churches of Christ*” (*Rom 16:16*) who are “*called the sons (Gk.5043- children) of God*” (*1 Jn 3:1*).

To be called a child of God.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received Him (*as many as have accepted Christ*), to them gave He power (*Gk.1848- privilege*) to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on His name: **13** Which were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (*the church*).** **6** That which is born **of the flesh** is flesh; and that which is born **of the Spirit** is spirit.

- During the time Jesus walked the earth there were many who didn't believe He was the Messiah and therefore didn't accept Him. We've all been born through the natural process that started way back when Adam and Eve first begat Cain. The **rebirth** process that comes through obedience to the will of God through baptism puts us into the parent/child relationship with the Father Who is Spirit. Because there is nothing **physical** about God, in order for us to become His children, we need to take on His **spiritual nature** in order to become adopted into His family, Christ being our elder Brother, “*the first begotten from the dead*” (*Rev 1:5*).

Rom 8:15 For ye have **not** received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

(Brad Price)

“Those who lived under the Old Testament were burdened with a system of fear and bondage. The law contained more than 600 laws and this system burdened those who lived under it.”

“Because Jesus instituted a New Covenant, Paul said that bondage and fear have disappeared.”

“In the New Covenant, there is the “spirit of adoption.” Adoption gives us full “enjoyment of the Fatherhood of God” (Turner, p. 4), and we should think of it as a merciful adoption.”

“The Spirit “leads” us. This leading comes from our study and knowledge of God's word. By examining the Word of God we can know whether or not we are God's children. If we are God's children, we can cry Abba Father. An illustration of the thought may be drawn from the time Jesus prayed in the garden. The Lord knew who He was and what His relationship with the Father was. Hence, He was able to address God in a passionate and very personal way. The same opportunity exists for us because through the Spirit's leading we too know who we are. Vine (1:384) said this word “was a form of address forbidden among the Jews to be used by a slave to the head of a family.””

“Because Abba Father can be understood as something like “Oh Father” (CBL, GED, 1:20), and slaves were forbidden from referring to their masters with this term, (CBL, GED, 1:21), abba is proof of the points made in this verse. By saying Abba Father, Paul described our “love and intelligent trust” of God (Vine, 1:384). It is “an outcry of praise to God with the words ‘Abba, Father’” (CBL, GED, 3:395) and may be an allusion “to a worship situation” (Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament, 2:313).”

“A few who have casually studied the word Abba have suggested the term means we can think of God in terms such as “Daddy.””

“With the passage of time this sense of the word “receded” and “acquired the warm, familiar ring which we may feel in such an expression as ‘dear father’” (Brown, 1:614). A similar point is made in the CBL, GED (1:21): “Jews used the term abba in a familiar sense, much as children today might say ‘Daddy.’ But this does not fit Bible times where the term always implied respect and was translated ‘Father.’”

- So, referring to God as “Daddy” is a show of disrespect for His divinity.

Gal 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God **sent forth His Son**, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 **To redeem** them that were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption of sons**.

Eph 1:4 According as He (*God the Father*) hath chosen us **in** Him (*Christ the Son*) before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy** and **without blame** before Him in love (*that’s our spiritual nature side, holy and without blame*): 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children **by** Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted **in** the Beloved.

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.**

- It was determined in eternity, before man was created, who would be a part of the few, narrowed down by the qualification of being **in Christ**. **Jesus** is the only avenue through **Whom** we are able to even approach **God** in prayer, let alone be in **His** presence throughout eternity. Those who are “*accepted in the Beloved*” are of the predetermined number selected by **God Himself**. And no, **He** didn’t just randomly pick the saints because that doesn’t comply with **His** just nature. The predetermined number is limited to those who accept **His Son** as **Savior**. How can anyone not? When we accepted the offer to become **God’s** children through obedient faith in **His Son**, we then became the “spiritual” offspring of the **New Covenant**. And what a privilege that is!

To have our sins washed away.

Heb 10:16 This *is* the covenant (*Gk.1242- a disposition [Webster: arrangement], that is, a contract*) that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember (*Gk.3415- recollect*) no more.

- A covenant is an agreement between two or more parties that can be broken when either party reneges on their side of the contract. **God** is not weak through the flesh as we are

so He will never renege on His promise to do His part in keeping His word. Which is why it is so easy to enjoy being in such a covenant relationship with One Who can **never** go back on His oath to save those who love Him and do His will. Even to the point of not recalling the sins of those who have been washed in the blood of His dear Son. God is not a God (*the God*) Who forgets. He **is** the One Who keeps His word.

To escape God's wrath.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

- The books that contain the names and deeds of those written there, will be opened and the souls of the unrighteous will be judged accordingly. But those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will not be condemned along with them.

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves (*if we scrutinize [examine] ourselves*), we should not be judged (*Gk.2919- to condemn*).

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith (*In other words, ask ourselves, are we still convicted, do we still profess Christ, do we still rely on Him alone to save us?*); prove (*Gk.1381- test*) your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you (*there's another privilege*), except ye be reprobates (*Gk.96- unapproved, rejected, worthless*)? 6 But I trust that ye shall **know** that **we are not reprobates**.

- How do we know that?

2Co 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (*Gk.2734- mirror, reflection*) the glory of the Lord, are **changed** into the **same** image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord. (*In other words, we are to reflect Christ.*)

- “Mirror, mirror, on the wall, do I see Jesus, do I see Him at all?”

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. 29 For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate *to be* **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the **firstborn** among many brethren.

- Our physical façade only covers what's really underneath.

1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

- God has not left us without a standard in which to compare ourselves to. How do we know we are not rejected? Self-examination along with His word. As we perform these daily inner self-examinations, we then realize our approval before God and our worth to Him. Only then can we appreciate the privilege we have through the sacrifice of His Son at Calvary.

Luk 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? 7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are **of more value than many** sparrows.

1Co 11:32 But when we are judged (*Gk.2919- to try*), we are chastened (*Gk.3811- discipline [by punishment]*) of the Lord, that we should not be condemned (*Gk.2632- sentenced*) with the world.

- Just as a good parent corrects their child in order to keep him from going astray, so God, as our Father, does with His children. Parental guidance plays a big role helping kids in choosing their friends wisely. With a set conscience they'll not just want to be part of the "in" crowd. The same goes with children of God. Through constantly reaffirming where we stand according to His grace, we are able to know right from wrong.

Rom 2:2 But we are sure that the judgment (*Gk.2917- decision*) of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

To experience trials.

2Th 1:4 So that we ourselves glory (*Gk.2744- rejoice*) in you in the churches of God for your **patience** and **faith in all your persecutions** and **tribulations that ye endure: 5** Which is a manifest token (*Gk.1730- indication*) of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be **counted worthy** (*Gk.2661- to deem entirely deserving*) of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

- When we withstand, though trials come our way, with patience and faith, we know **with certainty** that these things indicate that God counts us as **completely deserving** of being a part of His Son's bride, the church, "for which we also suffer". God is a just God. And we know we are doing something right when the Devil notices! And for that, we would gladly experience Satan's wrath knowing he **cannot touch** our inner man that is "rooted and grounded in love" (*Eph 3:17*)! Remember what the Lord has promised to those who obey Him?

Heb 5:8 Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience (*Gk.5218- submission*) by the things which He suffered (*Gk.3958- experienced*); 9 And being made perfect (*Gk.5048- complete [Jesus was already perfect in the sense that He is the Son of God.]*), He became the author (*Gk.159- a causer [He caused or brought about]*) of eternal salvation unto all them that obey (*Gk.5219- heed or conform to His authority*) Him;

Heb 13:5 ... for He hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

- Jesus experienced Satan's wrath at Calvary. Influenced by Satan, the Romans devised such a **visibly torturous** method of condemning their rivals, that God, through His providence, "in the fulness of the times" (*Eph 1:10*) sent His Son to die under such settings. Jesus did not die from being stoned by the Jews or by firing squad, hanging, lethal injection or other more modern-day methods. The impact, of the **idea alone**, that God would allow for Christ to die **that** death, should only **magnify** our appreciation for the privileges we have of knowing we belong to Him. Amen? And as the "souls under the altar" of Rev 6:9-11 were assured that their retribution would come, and it did when Rome fell, we also need not be concerned because our day of reckoning will come .

2Th 1:6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to **you who are troubled rest with us**, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; 10 When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. 11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would **count you worthy of *this* calling**, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *His* goodness, and the work of faith with power: 12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may **be glorified in you**, and **ye in Him**, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To have shared in His resurrection.

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- When we came up out of that water, having made contact with the blood of Christ which alone can cleanse us, we have been resurrected with Him. That's when we began our new walk as the adopted children of the Father.

Col 2:12 **Buried** with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are **risen** with *Him* through the faith of the operation (*Gk.1753- working, efficiency; in the N. T. used only of superhuman power, in this case, of God- Thayer*) of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead.

- Only God has such power to raise the dead. Only God has the wisdom do devise such a simplistic plan as the gospel to save man from his sin.

1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, *Who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.

To be written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev 21:23 And the city (*it is the place Jesus said He was going to prepare [Jn.14:2-3] -New Jerusalem*) had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 27 And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: **but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

- Is your name written there? Have you been faithful to keep it there? If you're not sure, you need to be.

#1. Have you heard?

Romans 10:14 ... "how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**"

#2. Do you believe?

Heb 11:6 ... "for he that commeth to God **must believe that He is...**"

#3. Have you repented?

Act 3:19 ... "**Repent** ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Joh 14:6 **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.**

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. Are you growing?

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

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