

## Connected by Relations

It's been said ...

Christianity isn't a religion—it's a relationship. *(with God)*

It then could be asked ...

How *close* is your relationship?

One of the most significant changes that needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives is that we've been adopted by God.

### **Four Proofs of Spiritual Adoption:**    *Changes that Occur*

#### **Freedom with Responsibility**

8:12-13

*Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.*

*Romans 8:12-13 NLT*

Being free of the past doesn't imply you're on your own;  
our connection of \_\_\_\_\_ is to have switched.

*As believers we have new \_\_\_\_\_ responsibilities.*

#### **Following the Spirit**

8:13c-15

*So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*

*Galatians 5:16-17*

The \_\_\_\_\_ we need *(and need to become dependent on)*  
comes from the Holy Spirit.

*As believers we have new \_\_\_\_\_ dynamics.*

## A pure Father's desired connection

8:15c-16

*Because you are His 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 God's child; and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir.*                      *Galatians 4:6-7*

Notice God's \_\_\_\_\_ involvement in adopting you:  
The Father wanted you, and through His Son paid for you  
and the Spirit connects us.

*Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. // For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

*Matthew 6:8 & 32*

May we comprehend the \_\_\_\_\_ of having  
a perfect, holy and all powerful Father.

*As believers we have new \_\_\_\_\_ privileges.*

## Focused on the Future *not the past*

8:17

*Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.*                      *Romans 8:23*

*or through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.*                      *Galatians 5:5*

The greatest benefit of being in God's family is still  
\_\_\_\_\_, after the resurrection.

*As believers we will have a new \_\_\_\_\_ reputation.*

### **Optional Reading:** *(14 chapters)*

**Acts** 2, 6, 16    Notice how the Holy Spirit guides and provides.

**Ephesians** 1-6    Notice how many times it says "in Christ."

**1 John** 1-5        Notice phrases like "This is how we know ..."