Define the Relationship: God as Father!

Claude Lainey – November 15, 2026

We need to see our relationship with God as Father & Son / Daughter.

1 John 3:1 (NIV) How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Romans 8:15–17 (NIV) 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." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 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.

1) **Spirit of Sonship — It is received, not earned!**
   - God adopts us into His family.

Romans 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 (NIV) Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2) **Our relationship with God is personal, ABBA**

3) **Security and Assurance: "**The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit" **that we are God's children.**
   - There is freedom from the bondage of fear!

4) **We are heirs & co-heirs with Christ. We are His children!**
   (a) We are heaven bound!
   1 Corinthians 6:2-3: we will judge with him… angels, the world.
   2 Timothy 2:12: we will reign with him
   John 17:22: We will share in his glory

   (b) Sonship involves privileges, security and assurance, but it also includes transformation!

   (c) We inherit a calling.
   Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

   (d) We inherit the heart of Father God!
   2 Corinthians 5:14 (NIV) For Christ's love compels us …

   (e) We inherit His authority and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
   Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
   Romans 8:12 (NIV) Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. — but to live by the Spirit!

   (f) We inherit a mission and a life of purpose!
   - Jesus' mission statement! "He came to serve and not to be served."
   - Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Peter didn't want to!
   - Jesus lived fully obedient and it cost Him everything. Even as the Son, He did not avoid the hard road.

Philippians 2:8 (NIV) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

5) We need to remember the promise of sharing in His glory! We share in His suffering, knowing that we will share in His glory!

Romans 8:17 "if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

Romans 8:18 (NLT) Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

- But we also find the call to suffer!
- Suffering does not earn our adoption or purchase our inheritance
- Paul took for granted that the Romans knew that following the Lord would lead to suffering!
- Suffering follows when we follow Him. It's not the price we pay to be adopted.
- Suffering is part of sonship! Jesus gave up His life!

1 Peter 2:21 (NIV) To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps

- When we serve, when we live out our faith, when we walk in His will, it will cause us to suffer!
- We are in a spiritual battle!
- Sometimes we don't experience suffering because we choose a comfortable state! If we would step into His will, it might cause us to suffer.
- We find encouraging words as we give ourselves to His work — Romans 8.

The spirit intercedes for us:

Romans 8:26–27 (NLT) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

We are more than conquerors:

Romans 8:37 (NIV) In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Everything works for the good of those who love God:

Romans 8:28 (NLT) And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

God will carry us through:

Romans 8:31–32 (NIV) What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Nothing will separate us from the love of God:

Romans 8:38–39 (NIV) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.