

**How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?**



**From Insecurity to Assurance**

Romans 8:5-17

Heath Hardesty • March 3, 2013

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**The living dead & the now living**

**...but how do I know?**

**To heir is human**



## **From Insecurity to Assurance**

Romans 8:5-17

Message-based Group Lesson

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### **Overview**

Last week we saw that the good gift of the Law was co-opted by sin, yet the greater gift of Jesus has come. He has done for us what the Law could never do. This week we are given insight into the seemingly simple question, "Who is a Christian?" It is a question that is often confusing and controversial. Yet Paul is clear about the answer: true life is the Jesus life. To be a Christian is to have the Spirit of Jesus. How do we know if we have this Jesus life? We have assurance that His spirit dwells in us if we are able to sincerely call God "Abba, Father," so we will explore this marvelous assurance of being a child of God!

### **Engaging with each other**

1. Share about some of the physical characteristics, personality traits, mannerisms and ideologies that you have inherited from your family of origin.
2. Is there one word or a phrase that you would use to describe your relationship with your family of origin?

### **Engaging with the Bible**

1. Read Romans 8:5-11. In verses 5-8, Paul contrasts living in the sinful nature with living in the Spirit. List as many contrasts as you can think of: living in the sinful nature versus living in the Spirit.
2. What does it mean that those who are in the flesh cannot please God (verse 8)? In what futile ways do we try to please God?
3. When Paul uses the phrase to have our "minds set on" (NIV) in verses 5-7, what does he mean?

4. Read Romans 8:12-17. Who is it that the Spirit dwells in? Mature Christians? All Christians? Who? How do we know if the Spirit dwells in us?
5. Paul says that it is Christ who secures this new life for us. How does this exchange take place?
6. What do you think Paul means when he writes, "If indeed we share in his sufferings?" (verse 17)
7. John 14:35-36 records Jesus' anguished cry of "Abba, Father." How does this cry of Jesus give us hope?

### **Engaging with our lives**

1. Discuss the concept of being an heir. What does being an heir imply?
2. Romans 8:15-16 tells us our true identity if the Spirit dwells in us. Consider the implications of this. What sort of actions and attitudes will follow if we truly call God "Abba, Father" as Jesus did?
3. In what ways are you hindered in fully living life in the Spirit? What is one step you can take to grow in this area?