

## **I Am a Child of God**

God created my inmost being; He knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise God because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; God's works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from God when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, God's eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in God's book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

In view of God's mercy, I offer my body as living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is my spiritual act of worship. I no longer conform to the pattern of this world, but I am transformed by the renewing of my mind. Therefore I will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

I know that my body is a member of Christ himself. My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in me, whom I have received from God. I am not my own; I was bought at a price. Therefore I honor God with my body. For I know that my old self was crucified with Christ so that the body of sin might be done away with, that I should no longer be a slave to sin. In the same way, I count myself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore I do not let sin reign in my mortal body and I do not obey its evil desires. I do not offer the parts of my body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather I offer myself to God, as one who has been brought from death to life; and I offer the parts of my body to God as an instrument of righteousness. I have been set free from sin and have become a slave to righteousness and I offer the parts of my body in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. I have become a slave to God, and the benefit I reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for me for I am in Christ Jesus, and I do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. Since I live in accordance with the Spirit I have my mind set on what the Spirit desires. My mind is controlled by the Spirit and I have life and peace. Therefore, I have an obligation--but not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For by the Spirit I put to death the misdeeds of the body, and I will live, because I am led by the Spirit of God and am a son of God. For I did not receive a spirit that makes me a slave again to fear, but I received the Spirit of sonship. And by him I cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with my spirit that I am God's child. Now if I am a child, then I am an heir--heir of God and co-heir with Christ, if indeed I share in his sufferings in order that I may also share in his glory.

And I know that in all things God works for my good because I love him, and have been called according to his purpose. For since God foreknew me he also predestined me to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What, then, shall I say in response to this? If God is for me, who can be against me? 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 me all things? Who will bring any charge against me whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for me. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate me from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."  
No, in all these things I am more than a conqueror through him who loved me. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus my Lord.