

What you get from your parents

- What does the word **inherit** mean?
- What kind of things might we inherit from our parents?
 - **genetically** - looks, abilities...
 - **upbringing** - opportunities, interests, networks of contacts, location...
- **What might we inherit from God our Heavenly Father?**
 - we'll think more about that later in the service!

Introduction

- Slight recap on what we've established thus far about how to become a Christian!
 - led to Christ by the Law
 - brought to God by faith, as children of Abraham
- What then is true of us, those who have put their faith/trust in Jesus Christ?

Status & Identity: Sons

- Fundamentally we are **God's sons** ("all sons", ie children)
 - but **in Christ** (26, 28)
- Pictures used to establish this:
 - clothed yourselves with Christ (v.27)
 - Abraham's seed (v.29) - spiritual descendants, not by human descent, but of the same family of faith

Implication: Equality (v.28)

- **No distinction in our status before God based on an external, human criteria:**
 - there is neither clever nor stupid, professor nor janitor, educated nor without qualification
 - there is neither black or white, English speaking and non-English speaking, Scots and English, Polish or Pakistani or anything else!
 - there is neither rich nor poor

Implication: Inheritance (v.5, 7)

- Inheritor of the estate:
 - but picture is a "coming of age" picture
 - of coming to the age of maturity, and coming into the inheritance
 - not of God being dead!!
 - **when we come to faith in Jesus Christ its as if we have come of age, and the inheritance promised is now ours in reality**
- What do we inherit?
 - salvation
 - home in heaven
 - character of Christ

Implication: Freedom (v.3-5)

- We are like an alcoholic who says they can stop anytime - and genuinely feels that to be the case - but doesn't...
 - we are, without Christ, sinners
 - who may or may not feel trapped by our sin
 - who may or may not feel that we are at any kind of risk because of our sin
 - but who are nonetheless sinners, trapped in a life that will lead to spiritual death, eternal separation from God

- When we come to faith in Jesus Christ we are set free:
 - no longer slaves to sin, but free to live as God intended us, in relationship with him

Implication: Access (v.6)

- Implication of sonship is access to the Father
 - "Abba", dad...
 - cf Barack Obama's kids in the Whitehouse...

Application

- How we carry ourselves - as sons
- How we live - in freedom
- How we treat each other - with respect, out of equality
- How we look forward - with confidence, to a sure inheritance