

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 137

IMITATORS OF CHRIST

Every one who has repented of their sins and has requested that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ pay their sin debt is a member of the family of God. At the moment of salvation, God adopts that person and they become one of His children. Until that moment, they are one of God's creation but they are not one of God's children. They are, in fact, one of Satan's children (John 8:44). *"¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father". ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."* Romans 8:15-17

However, as we pointed out in our last article, being a child of God does not make a person a "christian". To be a christian means to be Christ like or to pattern our life after the life that Jesus Christ lived. We must not live our life as most of the people in this world are living their life. We must do our best (with the strength of the Spirit of Might) to eliminate sexual immorality, impurity and greed from our daily walk. *"³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."* Ephesians 5:3-4 *New International Version*

Every time one of God's children allows their fleshly body to utter a curse word or to tell a dirty joke, God holds their material body accountable and He chastises that body just as a loving father would chastise one of his children who is doing something they should not be doing (Hebrews 12:5-11). Christ never allowed His material body to be engaged in those things and a person who is striving to be "Christ like" will not be engaged in any of those things either.